IRBID - (J.T.) Students of the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST) on Monday boycotted a company that operates buses between Irbid and the university, which is located near the northern town of Ramtha, in protest against the company's refusal to increase the number of buses. The protest was also against the company's refusal to set up passenger sheds at bus stops and arrange for buses to operate at fixed hours. The students claim that the company had leased most of its buses to the pilgrims who visit Mecca to perform the Umra pilgrimage, leaving only eight buses for the students. They say that the company had gone back to promises to increase the buses to 17 and to operate buses on fixed hours. The students complain that the lack of a sufficient number of buses was responsible for their delay in arriving for classes. The students say that they boycotted the same bus company on earlier occasions hoping that a solution will be found to the problem.



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AMMAN TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1995, RAMADAN 14, 1415

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Two churches mark Easter same day

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) - The Latin and Orthodox churches on the occupied West Bank have for the first time agreed to cele-brate Easter — the crucifixion and resurrection of Christ — on the same day. officials said Monday. However, in Jerusalem the Latins, a community of the Catholic Church, will still fol-low Rome's lead and hold their ceremonies on April 16. a week before the Orthodox. Ibrahim Qandalaft, who is in charge of Christian affairs for the Palestinian self-rule authority, explained that in the Holy City the Christian communities have to observe the status quo, which has been in

Israel does not kill wounded — Rabin

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin tried to stamp out reports Monday that soldiers were not taking any prisoners with a strongly worded statement that Israel does not finish off enemy wounded. The intervention came after the army announced an investigation into allegations that an Israeli officer died from friendly fire in southern Lebanon in December.(see page 7)- "We send our soldiers to fight against terrorists. They have to be allowed to open fire if something moves," Mr. Rabin told reporters. "But it is unthinkable that after an engagement, when the outcome is clear, we finish off the wounded. "I am not saying there have not been mistakes here and there. And if that is the case now we have to take care of it.'

Ekeus to visit Iraq on Sunday

UNITED NATIONS (AFP)

— The head of the U.N.'s Special Commission on Iraqi disarmament (UNSCOM), Rolf Ekeus, will travel to Baghdad on Sunday for consultations, his spokesman said Monday. Mr. Ekeus, who will stay until Feb. 23. will seek to maintain a clear dialogue between the United Nations and Baghdad over the disarmament, spokesman Tim Trevan said. The U.N. commissioner in the last month has visited Washington, London and Paris and he will present his latest report on Iraq before the Security Council after he returns from

Jahan-e-Islam 'insulted Islam'

TEHRAN (AFP) - Iranian authorities have accused a banned Islamic left-wing daily of insulting Islam and printing lies, a newspaper said Monday. Deputy Cul-ture Minister Ezatollah Zarghami told Resalat newspaper that Jahan-e-Islam, run by the brother of Iranian leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, had "created doubts, printed untrue stories ... and insulted the religious beliefs of the Muslim nation." "The decision to ban the paper was taken in view of numerous such violations in the past." He denied the daily had been banned because it had criticised the government. Jahane-Islam, representing Islamic leftists who have steadily been sidelined from power since 1989, was ordered to stop publishing on Thursday after it printed several stories critical of the government.

Romania backs Golan pullback

DAMASCUS (R) - Romania voiced support on Monday to Syria's call for full Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights and offered Romanian participation in a possible future peacekeeping force to separate Syrian and Israeli troops. Romanian Foreign Affairs Minister Teodor Viorel Melescanu also told Reuters after talks with Syrian leaders he believed the Middle East pare. process was going through a crucial stage and lots of effort was needed to further the negotiations that opened in

Israel, PLO talk peace, but remain far apart

Washington statement reiterates Arab-Israeli commitment to accords and peace on all tracks

WASHINGTON (Agencies)
— Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) have renewed their commitment to peace in Washington, vowing prompt talks on thorny issues like Palestinian elections and Israeli troop redeployments despite escalating tensions at

But both Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and a senior aide to PLO leader Yasser Arafat were later quoted by Israeli media as saying the meeting had failed to generate substantial prog-

Mr. Peres said his discussions with senior PLO official Nabil Shaath had been "polemics," while Arafat aide Ahmad Tibi told Israel Radio the talks "did not bring about any progress" and accused Israel of "suffocating" the Palestinians with its closure of its border with Gaza and the West Bank.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, doing his best to revive the flagging Middle East negotiations. said both sides acknowledged the challenges they faced. but made it "unmistakably clear" that they were committed to a "real partnership with one another and... a real peace."

cials met on the fringes of an Arab-Israeli foreign ministers' meeting opened by President Bill Clinton Sunday, at

Christopher, Kabariti hold talks

pliance with U.N. sanctions

imposed on Iraq, once the Kingdom's major trading

The foreign minister said

despite all difficulties, Jor-

dan chose to make peace

with Israel and signed a

Jordan's commitment to

support the Palestinians

and the Palestine National

Authority to enable them

to regain their rights on

their national soil on the basis of U.N. Security

Council resolutions 242 and

He also voiced Jordan's support for Syria and Leba-

non in the Middle East

The minister underlined

peace treaty with it.

partner.

WASHINGTON (Petra) - American Secretary of State Warren Christopher on Monday received in Washington Foreign Minis-ter Abdul Karim Al Kabariti, who briefed him on achievements by Jordan in the fields of democratisation, freedom, respect for human rights and the eco-

nomic reform programme. Mr. Kabariti outlined the success of Jordan's democratisation process with the participation of all political powers in creating a unique example in the Middle

He also dealt with economic difficulties facing Jordan as a result of its com-

which all parties agreed to honour agreements already made and accelerate talks on all tracks.

Mr. Christopher told reporters there had been "a very significant step forward by (Israel and the PLO) to

recommit themselves to the there had been "no explicit understanding" on the bor-

der closure. "Both sides reaffirmed

their commitment to negotiate promptly all aspects of interim agreement, including transfer of authority and redeployment in the rest of the West Bank, and elections..., he said in a state-

See-text of Washington statements on page 7

The parties "declared that ment to establish new industrial free-trade zones in the they are committed to comregion, and President Clinton said he would clear the way

duty-free.

(Continued on page 7)

peace in the region without security and stability."

"The parties reaffirmed

their strong determination to

honouring their agreements

already concluded and to

accelerate negotiations on all

peace process and its back-

ing for them in their pursuit

to regain their occupied

Mr. Christopher lauded Jordan's record in fields of

democracy and human

rights, saying the U.S.

administration has official-

ly asked Congress to write

off the remainder of Jordanian debts to the U.S. im-

mediately through an annex to the 1995 budget.

Mr. Kabariti also met

with his Egyptian counter-part Amr Musa and dis-

cussed with him means of

coordinating Jordanian-

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein on Monday received the chair-Egyptian stands on the peace process. man and members of a committee representing the Jordanian Economic and Sofor exports from those zones cial Organisation of Retired to enter the United States

Servicemen (JESORS). A joint communique issued at the end of the meeting said "there can be no real

men (Petra photo)

The committee outlined to the King preparations for the first national conference for retired servicemen and the committee's various tasks. King Hussein passed his

directives to the committee

concerning the JESORS' activities.

His Majesty King Hussein on Monday meets with a delegation representing retired service-

Ex-servicemen appeal

to King for assistance

The JESORS' chairman, retired Brigadier Aref Oteibe, expressed the servicemen's appreciation of the King's continued care for the interests of retired ser-

Brig. Oteibe referred to the economic difficulties facing retired servicemen and said they boped that the King would help them live a decent

He said retired servicemen were living frugally and were appealing to the King for

Brig. Oteibe said that through the planned conference retired servicemen were hoping to highlight difficulties and hard economic conditions facing them.

Present at the audience were Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem and Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'd Ben Zeid.

JVA to take charge of designing and building dam on Yarmouk

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan and Israel on Monday agreed to have the Jordan Valley Authority (JVA) to carry out work related to designing and building a dam in Al Adassiyeh area on the Yarmouk River, the head of the Jordanian side to the Jordanian-Israeli water committee said.

Munther Haddadin also said the Israeli government would pay its share in estab-lishing the dam, which will be used to divert Jordan's and Israel's shares of the Yarmouk River water. Dr. Haddadin said the

committee, which met in the Israeli town of Beasan, discussed designs for the dam which the two sides agreed to build in accordance with the Jordanian-Israeli peace

The committee also discussed means of storing water

GAZA CITY (Agencies) — Hundreds of Palestinian

workers, shouting anti-Israeli slogans, marched through the

streets of Gaza City Monday

to protest a 23-day closure

that has kept them away from

jobs in Israel and paralysed

An Israeli driver was stab-

bed to death in his taxi in

Jerusalem on Monday, apparently by Palestinian guerrillas. Israel's police

"It was an incident very

typical of the Ramadan

period which radicals see as

an excellent time to carry out

attacks. I think this was one

of them," Inspector-General

Assaf Hefez told reporters.

claim of responsibility.

There was no immediate

In Gaza, protesters

shouted angrily, denouncing

the ban on travel to jobs in

Israel and the expansion of

Jewish settlements in the

West Bank. "No to starva-

tion, no to settlements. We

are a people who won't

chief said.

the Palestinian economy.

on the River Jordan and adjacent valleys. It was agreed that the Jordanian government will take charge of the project and as such will have to invite representatives of the European Union (EU) to prepare tenders from consultants to conduct feasibility studies, Dr. Haddadin said.

He said a joint Jordanian-Israeli committee would cooperate with the EU through providing the relevant information on the project.

Dr. Haddadin said the EU had expressed readiness to offer Jordan a grant to conduct studies on water projects carried out as part of the peace treaty. He said the EU's desire was expressed following a European tour by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan last

Hundreds protest closure

knuckle under," they

But the turnout for the

march, organised by the

of Trade Unions, fell short of

the thousands that were ex-

pected, causing Palestine Li-

beration Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat to

As they wound their way

through the city's streets, the

protesters urged shopkeepers

to close down and join the procession, but few re-

it?" asked Zakaria Mazloum,

50, as he made a bamboo

chair in his workshop. "It's a

negative action that would

Israel's measures is to rely on

ourselves and on our re-

sources and not on the open-

ing and closing of the Erez

crossing" into Israel, he

the trade union, said if the

Rasim Al Bayyari, head of

"The only resistance to

produce no results."

Why should I take part in

cancel his appearance.

of occupied territories

chanted.

The joint Jordanian-Israeli committee also discussed means of pumping water from the Jordan Valley to Jordanian cities for drinking purposes and pumping water from the Israeli pipelines in the north to the King Abdullah Canal in Jordan.

The Ministry of Water and Irrigation is about to offer tender documents on the pro-

The committee will next meet in Tiberias in Israel to discuss costs of pumping water from the Tiberias Lake to the King Abdullah Canal. These costs will be shouldered by Jordan alone in implementation of the peace

The Jordanian negotiating team returned to Amman Monday evening after the conclusion of the seven-hour

lead to an economic intifada

that would cause "an explo-

sion" that Prime Minister

Yitzhak Rabin would not be

He said the workers were

planning a demonstration at

Erez on Thursday, when Mr.

Arafat and Mr. Rabin were

A similar summit broke

down last Thursday because

Mr. Rabin refused to lift the

closure, prompting Mr. Ara-fat to ask for U.S. interven-

Security officials said

meanwhile Israeli forces have

been put on alert against

attacks by militants during

Ramadan and the first

anniversary this week.

according to the Muslim

calendar, of the Hebron mos-

Police said the 35-year-old

Jerusalem taxi driver had

been stabbed several times in

the neck and died of his

(Continued on page 7)

que massacre.

supposed to meet.

Rabin: Less Israelis back deal with PLO

TEL AVIV (R) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin has said that as a result of increased guerrilla violence only 35 per cent of Israelis now support the Israeli-PLO peace process, Mr. Rabin's spoksman said on Sunday.

"The prime minister, meeting the visiting Russian deputy foreign minister at the weekend, told him that as a result of terrorism, public support for the peace process had declined from 70 per cent at the time of the signing of the Israeli-PLO (Palestine Liberation Organisation) accord in September, 1993, to a present level of 35 per cent," Mr. Rabin's spokesman Oded Ben-Ami said.

Opponents of the peace deal have killed scores of Israelis in suicide bombings within the Jewish state since last April, the eve of the implementation of Palestinian self-rule in Gaza and the West Bank town of Jericho.

Recent public opinin polis have shown Mr. Rabin's popularity sagging, in part because of misgivings over the peace process, but also because of a series of domestic policy blunders.

In a move that has proven popular with Israelis but has kept 60,000 Palestinians from sorely-needed jobs in the Jewish state, Mr. Rabin banned West Bank and Gaza Arabs from entering Israel after suicide bombers killed 21 Israelis in an attack last

Israel has linked progress in peace talks with the Palestinians to Mr. Arafat's doing more to fight militants who attack israelis.

Economists estimate Gaza loses \$3 million a day from the closure in remittances from the labourers and exports of local goods. It also aggravates the rate of unemployment which was set at 60 per cent before the closure.

Gaza economist Khaled Abdul Shafi said sealing off the Strip has frightened away private investors.

Arab states aim for joint stance on nuclear treaty CAIRO (Agencies) — Representatives of 14 Arab states

will try to reach a joint position on the extension of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) during talks here Tuesday, Arab League Assistant Secretary General Adnan Omran said Monday.

Mr. Omran said the officials, meeting at the Arab League headquarters, would try to outline a draft resolution "defining a joint Arab position" on the NPT extension, to be submitted to the Arab League Council on March 22.

The officials were also to work on a draft convention on eliminating weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East, which would be discussed at the council meeting here.

The states participating in Tuesday's talks would include Egypt, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Jordan, Iraq and Lebanon, Mr. Omran

Arab League Secretary General Esmat Abdul Meguid said in remarks published on Saturday that "some Arab countries are leaning toward signing without an Israeli commitment to nuclear weapons.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak insisted Sunday that Egypt would only sign the NPT extension if Israel did the same.

"All I can say is the day Israel signs (the extension). I will sign," Mr. Mubarak told the Arabic-language daily Al

"Let's wait and see what the Israelis do. If they say they are going to sign in three or four years we will put down reservations for three or four years. Then we will sign together," Mr. Mubarak

The United States, which provides Cairo with \$2.1 billion in aid annually, has urged Egypt not to link its position to Israel's. Egypt and the 169 other

countries that have signed the treaty are to meet in New York in April to decide whether to extend the treaty for an indefinite or limited period.

Israel, warning that it is still threatened by countries like Iran which are not involved in the Middle East peace negotiations, has refused to sign it and has never acknowledged possessing

However, Western experts say the Jewish state has about 200 nuclear warheads.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres declared Monday Israel would not sign the Mr. Peres said Egypt press-

ed the issue on Sunday at a Washington meeting of Arab-Israeli foreign minis-

"There was a sharp exchange and a harsh exchange but there is no change in Israel's stance," Mr. Peres told Israel Radio in a Washington interview. "We only said that Egypt has no threat of destruction, Israel does - Iran and Iraq."

Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa, who pressed the issue, was likely to raise it again when he met U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher on Monday. Israel and Egypt, partners to a 1979 peace treaty, are the biggest recipients of U.S. aid. Iran may refuse to sign an indefinite extension of the NPT even if Israel joins. Iran's permanent U.N. envoy Kamai Kharazi warned

Monday. In an interview with the

reporting from Nazran and

quoting Inquishi government sources said that Col. Kuli-

kov, after the talks, had im-

mediately ordered Russian

forces to cease using heavy

Since Col. Kulikov is an

Interior Ministry officer it

was not clear if he had au-

thority to issue direct orders

TASS quoted Mr. Maskha-

dov as saying he was authorised by Mr. Dudayev to lead negotiations "exclusively on

to the Russian army.

military issues."

(Continued on page 7)

Chechenya truce announced

NAZRAN, Russia (Agentanks into the North Caucies) — Russia and casus territory of Chechenya Chechenya have reached an agreement on a ceasefire in the two-month-old war in the breakaway republic, a De-fence Ministry spokesman said Monday.

Vladimir Nikanorov said the agreement was reached after five hours of talks between the commander of Russian Interior Ministry troops in Chechenya, Colonel General Anatoly Kulikov, and Asian Maskhadov, the chief of Chechen forces.

"The parties have reached an agreement to stop fighting with heavy artillery starting tomorrow," Mr. Nikanorov said. He said Russia had also agreed to turn over the bodies of Chechens killed in the conflict...

"The first steps have been made towards achieving mutual understanding," the spokesman added.

sent troops and TTAR-TASS news agency (Continued on page 7) Russia sent troops and

on Dec. 11 to crush a bid for independence and became bogged down in heaving fighting which killed hundreds, possibly thousands of

The ministry spokesman said the ceasefire agreement was reached between Russia and Chechenya in the presence of Inqushi Vice-President Boris Agapov.
He added that the follow-

up talks possibly to extend the ceasefire were scheduled for Wednesday and might take place in the Ingushi capital of Nazran,

Moscow has repeatedly ruled out talks with rebel Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev, but has said it was ready to talk with field commanders. All previous attempts to set up talks and arrange a ceasefire have

It was not immediately clear whether Chechen fighters, many of whom fight on their own, would honour a ceasefire agreement. Other ceasefire agreements in De-

cember and January collapsed within hours. The talks were held in the village of Ordzhonikidzevs-

kaya in Ingushetia, 50

هكنامن لأعهل



PROTEST IN GAZA: A Palestinian boy holding two leaves of bread on Monday as he participates with his father in a demonstration to protest Israel's decision to keep the

Palestinian territories sealed off for a fourth week. Around 1,500 jobless people marched through Gaza City (See page one) (AFP photo)

The unions say the law, by

giving the government such

sweeping powers, will under-

mine their independence and

give it the right to rig elec-

tions. Unions estimate the

law will affect up to one

The Brotherhood, which is

well-financed and highly

organised, has managed to

gain control of major profes-

sional organisations, such as

the engineers and doctors

syndicates, over the past few

Founded in 1928, the

Brotherhood is the largest

Muslim fundamentalist group

in the country. Though out-

lawed as a political party, it

has been tolerated by the

government and allowed to

run candidates in national

elections in confunction with

Opponents of the Brother

hood claim it has mishandled

union finances and used the

unions as a forum to further

fundamentalist goals. The

Brotherhood denies these

charges and claims it has re-

ernment detained 27

Brotherhood members,

accusing them of funding the

Muslim radicals and using the

unions to carry out "terrorist

plans." No charges have yet

On Saturday dozens of the

union members participated

in a silent sit-in outside the

People's Assembly to protest

the bill. Hours after Sunday's

vote, union members orga-

nised another sit-in at the

a close ally of the Brother-

hood, described the law as

unconstitutional and warned

that it would create tension in

novel called "La Maledic-

tion" which appeared in 1993

and denounced Algerian fun-

damentalists, won the Prix du

Levant and the Prix Liberte.

feels a "terrible monster just

emerging from the abysses...

(which was) going to devas-

There was no information

on funeral arrangements.

tate everything.

In it the main character

Legislator Fikri Al-Gazar,

medical syndicate.

Egyptian society.

nounced violence.

been brought.

other parties.

million of their members.

Egyptian parliament passes law controlling union polls

CAIRO (Agencies) — The Egyptian parliament has passed a law giving government new powers over union elections amid bitter opposition from unions controlled by the fundamentalist Muslim

The law, amending legisla-tion adopted in 1993, calls for the establishment of a legal committee to supervise union elections, which could refer to state institutions for help. Unions representing doctors, pharmacists, engineers and scientists immediately

threatened a general strike, union officials said. Before the vote the unions had mandated their leaders to set a date for a warning strike ahead of a general

strike, the officials added. The law still has to be signed by President Hosni Mubarak before taking

Abdul Monem Abul Futuh said he hoped Mr. Mubarak would send the measure back to parliament, which had "carried out an anticonstitutional act."

Mr. Abul Futuh, deputy secretary-general of the Arab Dectors Union, told AFP that "according to the constitution, any law concerning a union has to originate from the general assembly" of the union itself.

Union general assemblies earlier called for a peaceful protest march to the presidential palace Monday.

The 21 professional unions have close ties to the outlawed but previously tolerated Muslim Brotherhood, which has been subjected to an increasing clampdown by the authorities waging a bat-tle against Muslim militants.

The 21 are mainly controlied by the Islamists, while the workers' unions are state-

The Islamists say the amendment adopted Sunday could open the way to "government interference on the pretext of having been asked

Two thousand trade unionists demonstrated in front of parliament here Saturday to protest the bill.

to support the legal commit-

The authorities have accused members of the Muslim Brotherhood of funding armed Islamic militants in their campaign, which has claimed about 650 lives since it began in March 1992.

The bill, proposed by President Mubarak's National Democratic Party, now only requires Mr. Mubarak's official approval to become law. Mr. Mubarak has recently attacked the Brotherhood. saying it was giving support to the radicals who have

waged the campaign aimed at ousting the secular govern-ment and installing strict Isla-The state-owned Middle East News Agency said the

People's Assembly, or parliament, passed the measure in a summary session against protests from opposition legislators. Mr. Mubarak's party has more than a threequarter majority in the 458member assembly.

Eight opposition deputies opposed the law in a debate which lasted only one hour, MENA reported. It was unclear if other legislators voted against the measure.

Under the bill, a government-appointed committee of judges will oversee elections of all trade unions, rather than union members. The law will also give the committee the right to check unions' financial and membership records.

100,000 illegal aliens gone from Saudi Arabia

RIYADH (Agencies) — Some 100.000 foreigners have left Saudi Arabia amid a security crackdown on illegal aliens, most of them Asians and Africans seeking work in

the oil-rich kingdom. In a statement Sunday, Interior Mionister Prince Nayef Ibn Abdal Aziz also said that King Fahd has pardoned 4.800 prisoners on the occasino of Ramadan

He gave no details of those covered by the amnesty. But the monarch normally pardons prisoners who have committed minor offences and served part of their sent-ences on religious occasions.

Last November, the Interior Ministry said fore-igners without legal residence or work permits could voluntarily leave the kingdom without being penalised. It gave no deadline for the

A number of embassies cooperated in arranging for the departure of illegal

"We hope all citizens and residents will cooperate with us on this matter, and I hope we will not be forced to take more deterrent measurs which will become a necessity at a later point," said Prince Navef, according to the offi-

cial Saudi Press agency. He gave no estimate for illegal residents who may still be in the kingdom.

The problem with illegal aliens stems mainly from the millions of people who converge on the kingdom every year for pilgrimage to Islam's holiest shrines. Some stay on to look for work.

Saudi Arabia has almost five million foreigners out of total population of 18 million.

Around a million people flocked to Mecca last year for the annual pilgrimage or Haj. Saudi Arabia expelled several thousand Egyptians and Asians last year who had

been working here illegally. Saudi newspapers had in December quoted businessmen as saying the deportations would create job opportunities for Saudis at a time when the government is trying to encourage a bigger role for its citizens in the labour force.

Saudis to test French tanks, unlikely to buy

DUBAI (R) — Saudi Arabia, which already has 315 U.S. main battle tanks on order, does not appear likely to buy France's Leclercs despite its agreement to test the advanced French tanks in its punishing desert this sum-

mer, experts said. An Arab military analyst said that Riyadh, which bas plans to build up its tank force to more than 1,000 in the long term, was more likely to opt for a fresh batch of American Abram M1A2s made by General Dynamics

the 1990 tank-led Iraqi invasion of neighbouring Kuwait, the oil-producing giant's financial problems have slowed down in Saudi Arabia's ambitious arms-buying

programme.
The experts were commenting on a statement earlier this month by Pierre Chiquet, chairman of Giat Industries which makes the Leclerc, that he expected Rivadh to order up to 450 Leclercs in 1997 worth \$28 billion francs (\$5.33 billion).

They said two Leclerc models would be sent to the kingdom to undergo tough tests later this year in the desert heat which rises about 40 degrees Celsius (122 Fahrenheit).

"You never say no to a salesman who offers you to test-drive a new car... testing the tanks does not mean Saudi Arabia would eventually buy the tank," the Arab analyst said.

"Saudi Árabia is fully committed to the M1A2s tanks in 1990. British, French and Brazilian firms had competed for the deal

Riyadh exercised an option to buy 150 more Abrams in 1992 for fear the General

could otherwise close but the deal was deferred when Kuwait ordered 256 Abrams. The M1A2 will be the

main battle tank for Saudi Arabia," one expert said. Industry experts doubt Riyadh would embark on a major new arms shopping spree before it works its way out of its pressing financial

Weak oil prices caused cash flow shorages in the kingdom, the region's largest arms buyer which traditionally paid cash or in oil for its weapons, forcing it in 1994 to slow down the delivery schedules of U.S. military hardware on order.

Shortly after the United Arab Emirates ordered 388 Lecleres and 46 support vehicles in 1993 in a deal worth some \$3.62 billion, Western industry sources said Riyadh would test the Leclerc in mid-1994 and might buy up to 200 units. But nothing further happened at the time.

A Giat official said last year the Leclerc, equipped with a German MTU 833 turbocharged diesel engine, survived grilling tests in the so-called tank graveyard, a region of rocky terrain with steep slopes near the UAE-Omani border, against chal-lenges from the M1A2 and the British Challenger-2

made by Vickers Plc. Experts said political considerations could also play a key role in any eventual tank order and pointed to Riyadh's apparent displeasure with plans by French firms to help Iraq export oil once United Nations sanctions are lifted.

"This (French) rushing towards Iraq does not help," an Arab expert said.

Algerian theatre director shot dead

ALGIERS (Agencies) — Two gunmen assassinated the director of the Algerian National Theatre (TNA), Azeddine Medioubi, in central Algiers on Monday, security officials said.

Witnesses said Medjoubi. was shot by the gunmen who were lying in wait for him outside the theatre building, the former Algiers Opera, in the centre of the capital.

The Ministry of Culture stated that he was hit by several bullets in the chest and died on the spot, but no other official comment on the attack was forthcoming.

Medjoubi, a well-known and much-liked actor, was the second theatrical personality to be murdered after the manager of the regional theatre in the western city of Oran, Abdul Kader Alloua, was killed in March 1994.

Medjoubi won renown for his play "Hafila Tassir," adopted from Tennessee Williams's drama "A Streetcar Named Desire" and shown several times on Algerian television.

Hundreds of Algerian artists, intellectuals, teachers, government em-ployees and doctors, as well as foreign expatriate workers, have been slain in a campaign blamed on extremists at war with the militarybacked regime.

The violence began after the army intervened in January 1992 to cancel the second round of general elections the now outlawed Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) was poised to win.

The fighting and the campaign of assassinations is estimated to have claimed at least 30,000 lives.

Armed fundamentalists have threatened to step up their activities during the Holy Month of Ramadan claiming that it was a time to intensify the struggle. French Prime Minister

Edoard Balladur, in a clear rebuke to President François Mitterrand, said on Monday that outside interference in Algeria's civil strife was bound to be counter-produc-

Without mentioning the president by name, the conservative premier condemned indirectly the Socialist president's proposal 10 days ago for a European Union-sponsored peace conference, which drew a furious rejection from Algeria's military

Mr. Balladur, front-runner in France's presidential election, told a news conference on his manifestor that highprofile foreign intervention would not help the Algerians solve their problems through a necessary dialogue.

We must take good care not to appear to interfere in an artificial and unwanted way in a debate where the protagonists would not fail to unite immediately against those who intervened or proferred unwanted advice," he

The conservative government dissociated itself last week from Mr. Mitterrand's proposal, making clear it was a personal idea rather than a French policy initiative. The Algerians recalled

their ambassador in protest against Mr. Mitterrand's suggestion and had their state media denounce him.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Reporter given 74 lashes for making up news

TEHRAN (AFP) - A journalist in northeastern Iran has been sentenced to 74 lashes of the whip and suspended for three years for making up news stories to boost circulation figures, a newspaper said Monday. Kayhan said the reporter had sent a "baseless" story to the weekly Ghomes magazine about a mother killing her six children in the town of Gharveh in Kurdistan province several months ago and had it published. The reporter later "confessed" to the authorities that his motive had been to increase the circulation and sale of his weekly, it said.

Iraq wants assets unblocked to pay for Haj

BAGHDAD (AFP) - Iraq wants Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to unfreeze \$25 million of its assets to enable Iraqis to make a pilgrimage to Mecca, the official agency INA reported Monday. If the three Gulf Arab countries refuse Baghdad would not allow the pilgrims to go to Mecca, Saudi Arabia, in early May "as this will trigger inflation and an increase in the price of basic products," INA said. The government has decided to ask the United Nations, the Arab League and the Organisation of this Islamic Conference to persuade the three countries to meet Iraq's demand, the agency added. Finance Minister Ahmad Hussein Al Khodair told INA that Iraq's frozen assets in Saudi Arabia, Bahrain and the UAE amount to more than \$700 million, including more than \$285 million in bank accounts. Although Iraq's annual quota of pilgrims to Mecca is 18,000, only 474 Iraqis were able to go to Islam's holiest site in 1994 because of financial differentiates and the statement of the state difficulties caused by United Nations sanctions, according to the government.

Kuwait police bust alleged prostitution ring

KUWAIT (AP) - Police arrested 19 men and women for alleged prostitution after raiding their camp in a remote desert area, the English-language daily Arab Times re-ported Monday. The paper said the group included a high school girl and her mother, an Interior Ministry officer and "several military personnel." No names were disclosed. Interior Ministry spokesman Adel Al Ibrahim confirmed the arrests, but refused to give any details. Kuwaitis go camping in the desert for a couple of weeks this time of the year, taking advantage of good weather before summer sets in. The Arab Times said policemen who raided the camp also found large quantities of alcohol, which is banned in this conservative country. The newspaper did not say when the bust was made. But it said that the suspects have been released on bonds pending their appearance in court for

Wounded baby whale dies in Turkey

ANKARA (AFP) — A baby whale wounded by two harpoon blows and stranded for four days on a beach in western Turkey has died, marine experts said Monday. Officials from the Aegean University's Marine Institution said they had lost the battle late Sunday to refloat the four-metre-long whale and take it out to sea where its mother was waiting. Professor Atilla Alphaz said the failure to save the whale calf demonstrated the need for a centre to protect and treat marine mammals found frequently in waters off Turkey. The baby whale died on a beach near the western town of Izmir and the 10-metre mother whale was still trapped in the entrance to the Gulf of Izmir. Mr. Alphaz said an autopsy was conducted on the baby whale to determine the cause of death.

Israel ends Cairo fair boycott

CAIRO (AFP) — Israel will take part in the Cairo international fair next month for the first time since an Israeli embassy employee was shot dead at the event nine years ago, organisers said Monday. About 30 Israeli firms icuiture, technolo clothing are due to take part in the fair from March 18 to 31. Israel has boycotted the event since a member of an Egyptian revolutionary group shot the embassy employee as she left the fair in 1986. Last year Israel cancelled its participation following the Feb. 25 Hebron mosque massacre. "This fair is very important for us as bilateral relations are developing between the two countries," an Israeli diplomat said. Non-oil two-way trade between Egypt and Israel has more than doubled in the first three quarters of 1994 to \$30 million from \$13 million for the same period in 1993, said Economic Minister Hoda Naguib. Most of the trade is Egyptian exports to Israel, which lept from \$8 million in 1993 to \$21 million in 1994.

Algerian dockers launch strike

ALGIERS (AFP) - Seven of Algeria's 10 seaports were paralysed Monday on the third day of a strike launched by dockers for equal pay. The men went on strike on Saturday after the transport ministry refused to sign an overall agreement giving dockers in all ports the same pay scale. The ministry continues to insist that pay should depend on productivity. The newspaper Al Khabar said the dockers' union had already won a 30 per cent pay rise for its members but it said the union and the government remained at loggerheads over a "redeployment plan" which the union claims would create redundancies Monday, about 30 ships were waiting to be unloaded in Algiers and many more were anchored at sea waiting permission to enter the harbour.

Iranian dies at 140 years of

TEHRAN (AFP) — An Iranian man died at 140 years old, leaving 121 descendants spread over four generations, the official news agency IRNA reported on Sunday. Zolfali Soltanmoradi was in relatively goo dhealth and able to take care of himself until the last few days of his life in Obajit village in Mazandaran province north of Tehran. Villagers said Soltanmoradi had fought foreign domination in the years after World War I.

Algerian writer dies in Paris He recently came to the booklet sparked the rian writer Rachid Mimouni, France for treatment of his death threats. His last work, his sixth

PARIS (Agencies) - Algewho strongly opposed the rise of Muslim fundamentalism in his country and fled after death threats, died Sunday at a hospital in Paris of hepatitis, family members said. He

va. 49. Mimouni left Algeria. where he was a professor of political economy at the University of Algiers, to neighbouring Morocco in 1993 after threats against him and his 13-year-old daughter.

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel: 7'3111-19

Oue Le Michaer Gagne

PROGRAMME TWO

19:30 19:50 20:30 21:10

hepatitis, his family said. Mimouni wrote several novels in French including "I 'Honneur de la Tribu'' (Honour of the Tribe), which was made into a film. He also published in 1992 a critical pamphlet on the Islamic

Titled "On Barbary in General and on Fun-

Salvation Front, the popular but now banned Muslim movement.

damentalism in Particular." 623541. Armenii 771331.

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German-spenking Evangelical
Congregation Tel. 684195
The Church of Jesus Christ of
Letter-Day Saints Tel. 654932
Church of Nazarene Tel.675091. Feature film "The Room Up-Church of Nazarene Tcl.075091. The Evangelical Local Church in PRAYER TIMES Tel. 811295.

.. Maghrch Isha CHURCHES assemblies of God Church, Tel

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweifieh, Tel. 81(174) Jeseph Church Tel (624596). Church of the Annunciation Tel. De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

ta Charch Tel: 622366 Terrasancta Church Tel: 622366 Church of the Amunication Tel. Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543. nian Catholic Church Tel. Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261. St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751. Amnan International Church Tel. 652526. Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel: #24328

WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Temperatures will drop gradually with a chance of scattered showers and winds northwesterly moderate. In Aqaba, skies will be partly cloudy to cloudy, winds northerly

Min/Max. temp.

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 18, Aqaba 25, Humidaty readings, Amman 24 per cent, Aqaba 35 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY AMMAN: Dr. Ghaleb Zawaideh . Dr. Abdul Hadi Tayim . Dr. Khaidoun Astour Fires pharmacy Ferdows pharmacy 661912 At Asema pharmacy Nairoukh pharmacy Al Salam pharmacy 63.00

Dr. Mohammad Al Hilu 279773

EMERGENCIES Food Control Centre 637111

Civil Delence Department 661111 Civil Delence Immediate Rescue 630341 Crvil Defence Emergency 199 Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777 Public Security Department 630321 Hotel Complaints 605800 Water and Sewerage Complaints Ammar Municipality 787111 Telephone Information

Electric Power Contpany 634381 RJ Flight Information 08-53200 co Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200 HOSPITALS

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

AMMAN: Hussem Medical Centre 813813/32 Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn 644281/6 Akilch Maternity, J. Amn. 642441/2 Jahal Ammun Maternity 642362 Malhas, J. Amman Maternity 642362 Malhas, J. Amman 636140 Palesture, Sameisum 6681714 Shmeisum Hospital 669131 University Hospital 845845 Al-Mussher Hospital 667227/9
The Islamic, Ahdali 666127/37
Al-Ahli, Ahdals 664164/6 664164/6 777101/3 halian, Al-Muhajreen ... 777101/3 Al-Bashy, J. Ashrafich 775111/26 Antal Hospital 674155 ZARQA:

AREIVALS

(09)900560

Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272275 Ibn Al Nafees Hospital (02)347100 Princess Haya Hospital (03)314111 FOR THE TRAVELLER QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL

AIRPORT This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia In-ternational Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be veri-

Royal Jordanian (RJ) (Terminal 1) 84:00 Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur (RI) 87:30 Dargascas (RI) Dong Bahram RI

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

DEPARTURES Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights

(Terminal 1) 08:15 Ansterdam, New York (RJ) 11:96 Montreal, Toronto (RJ) 11:35 Geneva, Madrid (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2) 65:45 Damascus, Paris (AF) Lamacu, Rome (AZ)

Lamacu, Rome (AZ)

Vicana (DS)

Amsterdam (KI) HIJAZ- RAILWAY TRAIN

Dep. Assuma 8:00 every Monday Arr. Damascus

5:00 p.m. every Monday man 5:00 p.m. every Sunday MARKET PRICES Upperflower price in fils per kg. . 500/300

. 900 / 500



B!RTHDAY CELEBRATION: Monday Feb. 13 marked the birthday of Her Royal Highness Princess Alia Bint Al Hussein. Born in Amman, the Princess finished her school in the capital and later in London. She joined the University of Jordan, the English department, from where she graduated in 1972, first among the graduates. Princess Alia is president of the pan-Arab society for Arabian horses and is honorary chairperson of a number of Jordanian clubs and voluntary and charitable societies. Princess Alia is continually involved in efforts to boost women's rights and promote the status of services for Jordanian children.

'Legal changes conducive to economic expansion'

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Tourism and textiles are two major sectors that hold out promises of immediate dividends for Jordan in its efforts to develop its economy and the government needs to remove all restrictions that impede the potential growth of the two sectors, a European economic expert said Monday.

Now that the Middle East region is on the threshold of peace, Jordan and other countries in the area stand to benefit from a European Union (EU) initiative to make a "free trade area" between Cape North and Satiara and the Gibraltar and the Middle East, said Guy van Haeverbeke, a veteran who has served the European Community for more than 30

"There will be Euro-Med flow (of trade and econowill be a Med-Med flow," he said, adding that such a free trade area offered unlimited opportunities to all sides in an atmosphere of quality-based competition. Speaking to the Jordan Times on the fringes of a seminar — "Jordan and the World" — organised by Economic Perspective, a Jordanian newsletter, Dr. Haeverbeke said he was impressed by the tourism potential in Jordan.

"For millions of people the (Middle East) area is one whole touristic spot rich with attractions." he said, echoing the theme that joint tourism projects for the countries of the region under specific agreements of free travel among them were the best approach to taking advantage of the potential in the

Acknowledging that there was a noticeable increase in the flow of tourism to Jordan in the wake of the success of the peace process, Mr. Haeverbeke said, however, that the level was "nowhere near the full potential."

In textiles, Dr. Haeverbeke said he did not agree with the argument that Jordan did not have the raw material or the technology to successfully met the demands of the European market. He said he found quite a good number of people in Jordan who are capable of rising to the challenges of the international market and make a success of local production

and exports. He noted that Jordan and the European Union were on the verge of entering a new trade agreement under which EU member countries would offer preferential treatment, to Jordanian goods. The accord, he said, is an area where Jordan could secure favourable terms for its potential textile exports.

The accession of EU member states to the World Trade Organisation (WTO), which in essence means barrier-free trade and removal of unfair protective measures, does not contradict the notion of favourable EU treatment for Jordanian products, he said, referring to the possibilities of special arrangemnets that WTO allows.

In general, he said, the government needs to "create the right legal environment... to gain from the economics of the underlying fabric of peace" and move towards improving local quality control and standards and specifica-

These changes should come in the form of legislation that encourages healthy competition on the basis of quality of proudcts and services and prevents unhealthy practices as protective barriers and dumping. "This is a job for the legislature," he said.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

PLAY

- ☆ Play (in Arabic) entitled "Ye Who Are Hearing" at the Royal Cultural Centre at 9:00 p.m.
- ☆ Play (in Arabic) entitled "An Office to Solve the Problems" at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.

 ★ ABC News Highlights and McNeil-Lehrer News Hour at the American Center at 2:30 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

- ☆ Photo exhibition at the Friends of Archaeology Center. ☆ Exhibition of paintings under glass entitled "Oriental Roots" by Fatiha Rahou at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ☆ "Young America" exhibit (with photographs featuring Americans of all ages) at the American Center.
- ☆ Exhibition of works by Qasim Al Samir at the Housing Bank Complex Gallery.
- à Book exhibition at the Royal Cultural Centre. Also showing another exhibition of Arabic Calligraphy. ' Exhibition of the works of Lebanese artist Amin Al Basha at Darat Al Funua. Also showing works by contemporary Arab artists.
- ★ Educational works depicting the life of "Voltaire" at the French Cultural Centre.



KING RECEIVES COD DIRECTOR: His Department. Lt. Gen. Ghoul presented Majesty King Hussein received at the the King with a set of equipment used by Royal Court Monday Lieutenant General civil defence men in carrying out their Afif Ghoul, director of the Civil Defence tasks, giving details about their use.



Her Majesty Queen Noor Monday takes servation of Nature (Photo by George part in the tree-planting ceremony orga-nised by the Royal Society for the Con-

Queen plants trees in Yajouz forest

AMMAN -- Her Majesty Queen Noor and His Royal Highness Prince Hamzah joined the Royal Society for the Conservation of Nature (RSCN) members, nature conservation groups from private and government schools. family and friends on Mon-day for the annual tree-planting ceremony at the Noor Al-Hussein forest in Yajouz.

The Queen, the patron of the RSCN, and Prince Hamzah planted the first eight of the 1,500 to 2,000 cedar and acacia trees to be planted this year in the 400-dunum forest Ministry of Agriculture.

Queen Noor was welcomed by 2,800 school children from 94 nature conservation clubs established by the RSCN. The RSCN has founded 370 nature conservation clubs at government and private schools throughout the Kingdom.

Queen Noor expressed to the school children her pride in their environmental efforts and helped them in planting the trees; she reminded them not to leave the plastic wrapping behind so as not to harm. the trees' growth. She commended the RSCN on their efforts to mobilise so many young people to participate programmes promoting environmental awareness and emphasised the importance individual responsibility for greening Jordan.

The Noor Al Hussein forest is the sixth planted by the RSCN over the past 10 years in their campaign for "a green Jordan by the year 2000."

Queen Noor was received by Anis Mu'asher. President of the RSCN, Issa Shaheen, managing director of the RSCN and members of the

In a statement at the ceremony, Mr. Muasher said that six forests planted by RSCN are: King Hussein, Queen Noor, Abdul Hamid Sharaf, Al Muqabeleen, Al Zab and Al Ballan, located around the capital.

Mr. Muasher called on all citizens to take responsibility greening the country trees as possible.

He said that with lapse of port etc. time the forest will be a natural habitat of flora and fauna of all kinds, thus helping restore a natural balance in the

Traders discuss trend in economy

AMMAN (Petra) - The Jordan Trade Association (JTA) has helped Jordan enter nontraditional markets in Europe in 1988 and its endeavours towards marketing Jordanian goods abroad are continuing unabated, according to Kamal Qaqish, JTA president.

Addressing the opening session of a two-day meeting entitled "Jordan and the World," Mr. Qagish said that the way to boosting Jordan's exports lies in organising trade fairs abroad and seminars to orient the public and the local merchants on information about world markets and their requirements.

Expressing belief that Jordan's economy was heading in the right direction, Mr. Qaqish said that in the coming years economic growth was expected, thanks to the efforts of the Jordanian lead-

He said that the meeting. in which local and non-Jordanian economists are taking part, aims at discussing various aspects of the Jordanian economy, focusing on incentives given to investors and calling on foreign and local investors to launch joint investment projects especially in the peace era.

Also addressing the opening session was Riad Khouri, representing the local company Meba which organised the meeting in cooperation with the JTA. He said that the seminar aimed at focusing attention on Jordan's relations with the outside world in the financial and economic

Several speakers addressed the audience at the session, discussing Jordan's economic

links with Europe and emphasising the need for bolstering such relationship. They also outlined the privileges offered to investors under a law for promoting invest-

Mr. Khouri also spoke about trade competitions among countries and their benefits for the consumers, stressing the need for producers to continually seek new markets for Jordanian pro-

Participants at the meeting are discussing a range of topics related to Jordanian exports, foreign investments in Jordan, the transfer of modern technology to the Kingdom and the environment. Speical attention is being focused on Jordan's economic ties with European countries.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Irsheidat receives EU delegation

region. The EU delegation has promised to exempt from customs duty, finance the feasibility studies and the preparation of plans for these projects. The ministry 133 merchants fined Sunday said that consultancy and feasibility studies will be completed by mid-June.

House meets Wednesday

Jordanian-Palestinian committee convenes

AMMAN (Petra) - Minister of Water and AMMAN (Petra) - The Jordanian-Palesti-Irrigation Saleh Irsheidat met in his office nian committee entrusted with promoting Monday with a delegation from the European trade between the two countries will hold a Union (EU). Discussion covered the prospect meeting at the Ministry of Industry and Trade of EU providing assistance to the Kingdom, Tuesday. The meeting, which is in impleto enable it to carry out water projects as mentation of the Jordanian-Palestinian agreeprovided for under the Jordan-Israeli peace ment signed on Jan. 26, is expected to come treaty. These include the building of dams and up with a list of commodities which will be the diversion canals in the Jordan Valley exchanged by the two sides and other fees

AMMAN (Petra) - Ministry of Supply inspection teams Sunday issued fines to 133 merchants in Jordan for violating ministry regulations. A Supply Ministry statement said AMMAN (Petra) - The Lower House of that 70 of these merchants were in the Parliament is due to meet Wednesday, in the Amman area. The teams had fined 169 presence of the Cabinet members, to allow merchants the previous day. The fining of government ministers to reply to queries hy merchants followed a pledge by the minister deputies on various issues. The House will of supply that the ministry will take drastic also debate a report by its Finance Committee actions against violating merchants especially which contains two reports submitted by the during Ramadan when prices tend to increase

Prince Hassan calls for consumer awareness campaign

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan speaking at a. meeting in his office Monday with the president and members of the Protection of the Consumers Society from Amman and Irbid, called on the media to promote programmes for spreading awareness among the members of the public of their rights and

Crown Prince Hassan said that awareness could be spread from the mosque pulpit (minbar) through sermons aimed at enlightening the consumers on their responsibilities, on the need to ensure the good quality of the goods they buy and on the merchants' monopoly over certain consumer goods and their abidance by the required specifications. Prince Hassan's meeting

with the society members was

attended by his advisor,

Mohammad Saggaf. Society President Mohammad Obeidat voiced the society's appreciation of the Prince's concern with the interest of the Jordanian consumers and his pledge to support the society's activities and endeavours.

Following the meeting, Dr. Obeidat said that the society will soon coordinate matters with the Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs for the sake of guiding the public, through the mosques, on matters concerning con-sumption prices of commod-ities and related issues.

He said that the society,

which started its services 1989, was the brainchild of Prince Hassan who continually provides the society board with guidance and advice. The meeting with Prince

Hassan came one day after deputies in Parliament questioned the fitness of imported meat for human consump-

Deputy Nazih Ammarin, from Karak, had said during Sunday's session that some reports suggested that merchants were importing meat unfit for human consumption during and before the start of the holy month of Ramadan.

Health Minister Arcf Batayneh replied by stressing that the Health Ministry does not allow the entry into the country of food before laboratory tests determine that it is fit for consumption. When proved to be unfit, such meat or other foodstuffs are not allowed to be marketed but are destroyed while the merchants involved in the transaction are put on trial,

TCC privatisation enters new phase

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The restructuring of Jordan's telecommunications sector entered a new phase on Monday with the launching of a three-day meeting which will discuss a plan drawn up by an international consultant on commercialising the state-owned Telecommunications Corporation (TCC) ahead of privatisa-

announced last year that privatising the TCC was a strategic objective and the process would be launched with transforming the status of the monopoly as a full-fledged commercial en-tity in the first phase. It is expected that the

actual process of commercialisation of the corporation would begin around mid-1995, after the draft law is formalised through the government and Parliament, while the TCC would carry out the relevant administrative and financial changes within itself to meet with the requirements

of a commercial entity. The commercialisation and privatisation of the TCC comes in line with the government's gradual moves towards a free market economy with limited or no direct state involvement in the sectors such as telecommunications, trans-

The private sector has been allowed to enter the telecommunications area after amendments were made to the relevant law, allowing commercial firms to have concessions in "complementary services." Subsequently, private operators secured a concession for radio paging under an accord signed in 1992. and for cellular phones under a deal entered last

Several international experts who visited Jordan since 1990 have strongly recommended the privatisation of the TCC and streamlining foreign and local private sector involvement in telecommunications under the close watch

of a regulatory body.
The experts, some of whom met with senior government leaders, also pointed out that the longterm gains of the government in privatising telecommunications under . controlled conditions would be much more beneficial than the short-term deprivation of revenues from the state-owned TCC. The advantages include timely catching up with advanced technology in the field.

It is estimated that the TCC generated more than JD 120 million in revenues to the treasury in 1994; not an insignificant amount, given that the state budget was JD 1.35 billion. However, because it was forced to freeze all modernisation and expansion projects for more than four yers since 1989, as a result of the economic crisis Jordan faced, the TCC has not been able to meet the growing demand for telephone services in the country.....

Under the present form. of the relevant law, the TCC retains the monopoly for offering basic services telephone lines. Announcing the plan to change the status of the law, the government said last year that the corpora tion would remain to be "one of the operators" in the sector rather than "the

sole operator." It was announced at the outset of Monday's meeting that the concerned authorities have already prepared a draft law on the status of the TCC and the draft would be sent to the government soon for the constitutional process of its enactment.

The meeting, attended by a steering committee chaired by Minister of Posts and Telecommunications Jamal Sarayreh and senior TCC officials directly concerned with the process of commercialisation, is expected to come up with recommendations on the

transformation plan prepared by Britain's Price Waterhouse, an interna-

tional consultancy firm. The details of the plan were not immediately available, but the first steps in commercialising the TCC, a state monopoly, are expected to involve changes in the laws that created the corporation and gave it its mandate of meeting Jordan's telecommunication needs.

Addressing the meeting. Mr. Sararyeh noted that Jordanians wanted "to make telecommunications available for all people living in Jordan, whether they are in rural or urban areas, and (that) service should be obtained at fair prices that reflect cost, efficiency

and... profit. In line with this approach, the government's main objective is to "stimulate and support the economic, social and cultural development of Jordan and to improve income generation, whether directly, as the owner of the presently dominant operator (TCC), or indirectly, from the stronger and more competitive business of the private sector," said the

The "sectoral restructuring" of telecommunications, as officials describe the process, involves setting up policy department and functions, establishing an independent regulatory body, changing the administrative and financial procedures currently in effect at the TCC, and enactment of the required legal amendments.

Walid Dweik, directorgeneral of the TCC, is the overall head of the "TCC transformation project." Others involved in the project include M. Khasawneh as director-general of the regulatory body, H. Al Jalaby, as head of the sector policy team, M. Hijazi. a financial advisor to the minister of finance, as manager of the privatisation project. Nabulsi and Company is handling the legal aspects of the project.





Bob Geldof/wife

LONDON (AP) — Pop star Bob Geldof and his wife,

Paula Yates, are parting "for a while" after 18 years

together, a British tabloid re-

ported Sunday. The News Of

The World published a hand-

written letter, signed Bob

and Paula which it said it

received by fax from the cou-

ple. It announced their inten-

tion to take a break from

"being in each ther's faces all

the time." "After 18 years of happiness together, Bob and Paula Geldof decided to have

a break from each other for a

while." It goes on: "They

both love each other fantasti-

cally and adore their children

and for them that's all that .

matters really," "... They will see and speak and eat with

each other daily, occasionally

go out together and continue

to love one another. They are

each other's best friend."

The report could not im-

mediately be confirmed inde-

pendently. The News Of The

World claimed Miss Yates,

36, had been seeing Inxs rock

star Michael Hutchence since

the separation, and that it

had received the fax after the

pair were told the paper

knew of the marriage split. A spokesman for Channel 4

television, where Paula Yates

works as a morning program-..

be appearing this week. She already had been scheduled

for a vacation this week, he.

added. Geldof, 43, and Ms.

Yates, have three children, .

Fifi, Trixibelle, Peaches and

VERONA, Italy (AFP) — A

medieval palace reputed to

be the home of Shakespeare's -

tragic lover, Juliet, is to be

restored by authorities in the ...

the city's mayor said Sunday. .: Michela Sironi Mariotti said .:

work would begin in Septem-

ber on the palace in Verona's

old town, which each year attracts up to 100,000 visitors

who come to stand under-

neath the balcony where

Romeo Montague professed:

his love for Juliet Capulet. In

fact, the present balcony only

dates from shortly before

World War II, but much of

the rest of the house is in-

desperate need of renovation ...

after suffering damage from thousands of tourists who

have left their signatures, ini- -

other graffiti on its walls. The

romantic legend prompted

4,479 people from all over

the world to write symbolic.

love letters to Juliet in Vero-

na last year, continuing a tradition established in the

1930s which has become:

popular particularly with the

Japanese police

nude book case

TOKYO (AFP) - A photo-

Japanese.

arrest 4 in

nerced love hearts and

north Italian city of Verona,

Pixie.

Verona

to spruce up

home of Juliet

me host, said she would not

reportedly by separate

Peru masses troops for 'final assault' on Ecuadorean post

LIMA (R) — Peru has bolstered troop strength along its northern border in advance of a "final assault" on a key Ecuadorean outpost in a disputed patch of Amazon jungle, according to local press reports Sunday.

Heavy rains and rugged terrain had prevented the Peruvian army from launching the attack on Tiwinza post immediately following saturation bombing late last week, the reports said.

The army in the last 24 hours has transported some 2,000 soldiers to the Peru-Ecuador line, most from highland Ayacucho Department, the reports added. Official comment was not

immediately available. The latest Ecuador-Peru dispute is over an unmarked 48-mile (76-km) stretch of border in the remote Cordillera Del Condor that was set out in a 1942 Rio De Janiero Protocol bringing and end to their 1941 border conflict.

President Alberto Fujimori said Saturday that Peruvian troops had seized the hills above Tiwinza, which Peru says is the last Ecuadoran stronghold on Peruvian soil, and that a final attack was imminent.

But he declined to predict when fighting would be over. 'We are in a delicate situation because there is an escalation," he said. "I cannot make predictions.

As fighting stretched into its 18th day Sunday, Peru mapped out plans to launch a diplomatic counter-offensive Monday, sending diplomats, jurists, academics and jour-

States Monday sent home re-

mains of six servicemen killed

in the Vietnam War and U.S.

veterans gave their former

enemies information that

they said could help locate 3,800 missing Vietnamese

The events were part of

painfully slow reconciliation

after the war, which remains

an onen wound, especially

for Americans whose Viet-

namese allies in Saigon were

defeated by Communist

the 53rd birthday of its new "Great Leader," Kim Jong-

II, in what is seen as a con-

firmation of his position at

the helm in Pyongyang, amid

doubts over the country's fu-

Mr. Kim's birthday Thurs-

day, officially declared the

appears to have been planned

to reinforce Mr. Kim's perso-

nality cult and his position as

the only successor to his

father, former leader Kim

In an apparent bid to dispel

persistent rumours over his

ill-health, Mr. Kim made two

reported public appearances

to a coastal artillery position

and a navy unit earlier this

rean Central News Agency

(KCNA), also served to bols-

ter Mr. Kim's ties with the

military, which analysts say

has played a central role in

the running of North Korea since Kim II-Sung's death.

machine has been working

full-tilt recently to promote

Mr. Kim, who has yet to officially take over the func-

tions of party general secret-

ary and North Korean presi-

dent, seven months after his

"For his immortal feats, which will shine through gen-

erations with the century, the

great comrade Kim Jong-II

enjoys undisputed trust and

deepest respect from the Ko-

rean people," the official

Minju Joson newspaper said

On Monday, Radio Pyon-

gyang called Mr. Kim "a

great general of steel who has

won 100 victories in 100 bat-

But despite the delay in

awarding Mr. Kim his full range of titles, North Korean

experts in Japan and South

Korea generally say that the

transfer of power from father

to son has taken firm root,

and without having faced se-

There has been speculation

that the formal installation of

rious obstacles.

father's death.

North Korea's propaganda

The two appearances, reported in Pyongyang's Ko-

II-Sung.

month.

country's "greatest holiday,"

forces in April 1975.

U.S. veterans pinpoint

mass graves for Vietnam

HANOI (R) - The United the tarmaç at Hanoi's Noi Bai

TOKYO (AFP) — North Mr. Kim Jong-II in the two Korea celebrates this week key posts could take place in

nalists abroad to explain Lima's position in the con-

Government sources said Peru plans to send out the missions simultaneously to Europe, Latin America and the United States to counter what they say has been Ecuador's "disinformation campaign" regarding the border dispute.

Former U.N. secretary general and presidential candidate Javier Perez de Cuellar said in an interview Sunday the mission should go beyond simply explaining Peru's position.
They should "ask that the

countries help take this, once and for all, to the negotiating table to finish the demarcation (of the border) as a permanent and definitive solution to the problem," he

Mr. Perez De Cuellar said he was worried Ecuador would again reject a peace proposal from the four guarantors of the 1942 Rio De Janeiro Protocol in an effort to have the overall border issue mediated by the U.N. or the Organisation of American States.

Peru has insisted that a panel comprised of officials from the guarantor nations -Argentina, Brazil, Chile and the United States - is the only international body with jurisdiction in the matter.

Ecuador's armed forces said Sunday that Peruvian anti-aircraft fire hit one of its warplanes, but the aircraft returned safely to base.

through a communique band-

Airport in which six cases of

remains were loaded into a

U.S. Air Force C-141 trans-

port plane to be flown to Hawaii for forensic tests to

The veterans held folded

U.S. flags which were placed

of the Soviet Union and the

first hesitated in backing Mr.

The Chinese sports minis-

determine identities.

on board.

ed out after a Peruvian television station reported that Peru had shot down two Ecuadorean planes. The communique did not deny

the version directly. "The Ecuadorean Air Force provided air support to the Ecuadorean patrols oper-ating in Cueva De Los Tayos Base," the statement said.

"As result of this support, one of our planes was hit by enemy anti-aircraft fire and had to return to base, without much consequence," it

In Lima, a television station said Peru's armed forces shot down two planes in the disputed area, where the armies from both countries have clashed for the last 18

America Television said that the Israeli-made Ecuadorean planes crashed under intense anti-aircraft

Pernvian military sources did not immediately comment on the version, but a high ranking Ecuadorean military officer said that the joint command had no information of missing Ecuadorean planes.

"Some of our planes left their bases today on support mission, but all of them returned to their bases," officer told Reuters. The officer said he did not

know if any Ecuadorean planes left their bases Sunday evening, but he said it was The communique that

Ecuadorean and Peruvian troops clashed Sunday at the disputed border but said the skirmishes were less intense than in previous days.

So far, Ecuador admits that nine of its soldiers have died and 37 been wounded since hostilities started over the disputed border.

In Brasilia, diplomats scrambled Sunday to keep talks alive between Ecuador and Peru over their border battle, but Ecuadoran officials were talking tough after their troops downed at least two Peruvian warplanes.

Mr. Fujimori said Saturday that Ecuador's army had shot down two Sukhoi bombers as well as an A37 ground attack aircraft. He said a Peruvian chopper was also missing. Mr. Fujimori said the jets

were hit around Equador's disputed Tiwinza border post, a focal point of the countries' fight over an unde-marcated 78-kilometre (48mile) stretch of frontier in the Andes' Condor range. Diplomats from the

arantor countries met in Brazil's capital to try to advance work on a ceasefire agreement.

Ecuador's Foreign Ministry released a statement Sunday marking the anniversary of explorer Francisco de Oreilana's discovery of the western reaches of the Amazon after setting out from

"Today more than ever," the statement said, "Ecuadorans have united... to defend the historical legacy of Orellana's feat Feb. 12, 1542: the beginning of Ecuador's destiny and rights in the Amazon Basin."

U.K.'s Duke of Kent lays wreath for Dresden dead DRESDEN, Germany (R)

 Britain's Duke of Kent joined senior German and British diplomats and army commanders Monday to lay wreaths in memory of the 35,000 civilians killed in the carpet bombing of central Dresden 50 years ago.

The presence of the duke, cousin of Britain's Queen Ehby servicemen on each case, escorted the cases into the zabeth, symbolised the postaircraft and joined an honour war - reconciliation between guard which saluted the cases the two countries which has been the theme of the 50th Veterans wept with emoanniversary commemoration and embraced after the tions. German newspapers ceremony, the first U.S. and commentators said.

military repatriation of re-Top military commanders an emotional ceremony on mains this year. from Britain, the United States and Germany also King Jong-Il on verge attended the wreath-laying at the Heidefriedhof Cemetery, of assuming full power where many of the victims

Britain has never apologised for an attack which ranks among the most brutal

two steps in spring and in the of World War II. U.S. bombers also joined China, North Korea's last the raid on Feb. 13, 1945 major ally since the break-up which turned the famed baroque centre of Dresden into a decline of communism, at roaring furnace, but left almost unscathed areas of Kim, but recently expressed potential military significance support for the Communist such as army barracks and World's first dynastic succes-

railway junctions. The Duke of Kent was due later Monday to hand over plans for a gold cross which British donors, including the queen and the government, will provide to adorn the cupola of the bombed-out Church Of Our Lady when it is rebailt.

The church was once Dresden's most cherished landmark and its ruins were preserved after the raid as a

Simon Barrington-Ward, bishop of the British city of Coventry which was bombed by Nazi Germany's Luftwaffe donation was a "signal of new life and peace."

"On the 50th anniversary of the destruction of Dresden, I will express our regret and our hope of securing peace together, he wrote in Berlin's Tagespiegel newspaper.

Queen Elizabeth was booed on a visit to Dresden in 1992, shortly after the queen mother unveiled a statue in London of the man who masterminded the raid. Air Chief Marshal Sir Arthur "Bomber" Harris.

The German media have given detailed front-page



attend the party congress closing day with the party symbol, a red cross on white background painted on their cheeks. Italy's federalist

cember, ended its congress recognis need an ally with the left for future elections (AFP photo)

Italy's Northern League looks left after congress split

MILAN, Italy (AFP) — Italy's federalist Northern League, in disarray since it brought down media tycoon Silvio Berlusconi's government in December, agreed at a congress which ended here Sunday it would have to ally with the left in the case of

Despite repeated asser-tions by its leader Umberto Bossi that "the League will not turn left, it is in the centre" in an attempt to keep on board small businessmen. the movement implicitly realised it will have to team up electorally with the excommunist Democratic Party of the Left (PDS).

Given that realisation, numerous supporters have already jumped ship in protest at the way the party pulled the rug from under Mr. Beriusconi just before Christmas.

But Mr. Bossi was adamant that his movement "must build a pole at the centre, representing the mid-dle classes" while remaining "distinct from the pole of the right and the social democratic pole. He said he also hoped that liberal elements in Mr. Ber-

lusconi's Forza Italia movement would join him. But that appeared an impossible dream Sunday given the enduring strength of the link between the media magnate's supporters and the former neo-fascist National Alliance of Gianfranco Fini.

low political traveller of the past 15 years with the resignation Saturday of League co-founder and deputy leader Roberto Maroni. The split between the two was sealed by Mr. Maroni and his sapporters urging a move inside the orbit of the "pole of liberty and solidarity" which Mr. Beriusconi wants to build based on support from League dissidents and rightist elements of the Popular Party, the former Christian Democrats, alongside Forza

By quitting the League, which Sunday changed its name, adding the words Federal Italy to appeal to voters outside its northern strongholds, Mr. Maroni managed to prise away from the party half a dozen deputies who now look set to join 50 other dissidents among the 177 MPs the party had elected last March.

The pro-Berinsconi caucus of former League members meanwhile held their own congress Sunday in Genoa under the banner of their newly-formed Italian Federalist League (LIF).

Despite asserting his cen-trist credentials, Mr. Bossi had already intimated Saturday that he could accept an "electoral alliance" and share "programmes" with the PDS even if the link would not "organic" in nature with regional polls and possibly early legislative elections

porters and 400 delegates overwhelmingly backed the apparent lurch towards the left and rapturously applauded PDS leader Mas D'Alema, previously carica-

tured as an ogre of the left. Mr. D'Alema told the congress he believed a general election would arrive sooner rather than later - most likely late this year - and warned the League it might not have time to create a proper centrist political movement by then.

"The moment Berlusconi unleashes his counteroffensive, it would not be wise for democratic forces to be divided," he said, adding he wanted to see "a vast alliance" encompassing any-one from "democratic" Catholics to small socialdemocratic, socialist and republican parties.

Mr. Bossi meanwhile appeared unperturbed by the fact that opinion polls now show his party at just three to 3.5 per cent and told congress delegates the League was now seeking to spread its support beyond the north, hence its name change to show its federalist credentials should apply to the whole nation.

The movement further agreed to make itself more democratic by creating a political secretarist to give a more collegiate hue to its decision-making processe and to aid the party's federal secretariat in drawing up par-

Mr. Bossi has also lost his fel-The League congress China to mark birth of 1.2 billionth citizen

BELIING (R) - China is marking the birth this week of its 1,200,000,000th citizen with a major new crusade against multiple-child families in its rural population and among migrant workers

where controls are failing. The State Council Monday approved the State Family Planning Commission's programme for the rest of the decade, which aims to limit the population to 1.3 billion by 2000 by slowing the natnrai growth rate to under 10 births per 1,000 of the population.

The growth rate was 11 per

in the 1970s before China adopted its strict "one couple, one child" family plan-

ning policy.
China's ultimate goal is to achieve zero population growth - a balance of births and deaths - by 2040 when numbers will have hit the 1.5 billion to 1.6 billion level, officials say.

China intends to pursue its goal undarinted by critics who allege it relies on coerced abortions and sterilisations and other rights abuses to limit births, the officials say. China denies any official support for these practices. The nationwide campaign.

which senior leaders will kick off Tuesday at the Great Hall of the People, aims to curb worrying growth rates among the country's rural popula-tion by linking family planning with aid-the-poor projects, Xinhua news agency

State councillor and comission chief Peng Peiyun called the campaign of finan-cial and material incentives a "road of hope for rural family planning," Xinbua said.
The commission said in

January that babies were being born at a rate of 58.000 a day — or 40 a minute — in

grapher and the president of a publishing house were among those arrested Monday on charges of selling thousands of copies of a book of "obscene" nude photos, police said. The Metropolitan Police Department announced the arrests of . photographer Temnei Kano, 52, Ippie Takahashi, 50, president of Takeshobo Inc., and two other executives of the publishing firm. They were charged with violating Japan's obscene picture sell-ing control law. The charges involve the sale of nearly 69,000 copies of a nude photo collection titled "Kikuze!" -("It works!") between November and January for about 150 million yen (\$1.5 'million). Police have said the pictures constitute obscenity because they present women's sexual organs in a were deployed to the neighway that is "highly indecent and graphic." Disclosure of pubic hair has long been considered public indecency and censored in Japan, but it has been considerably relaxed in ...

Wives jailed over below the belt blows

the past year:

PORT MORESBY (AFP) -Two women were reported Monday to have been jailed by Papua New Guinea's national court for killing their husbands by kicking and squeezing their testicles. De bra Bamira, 26, and Lucy Moro, 25, were each sentenced t lands town of Kundiawa for

imprisonment in the high what Judge Salamo Injia de scribed as "unusual" killings. The court was told the women had attacked their husbands in separate incidents during violent domestic arguments.

coverage to the anniversary. 1.000 in 1993, down from 25 Murder-scene tour gives Simpson jurors new perspective

that "the revolutionary cause of Korea will certainly be accomplished under the wise guidance of the great leader Comrade Kim Jong-II." But while these factors would seem to ensure Mr. Kim's handle on power for the short-term, there are still widespread uncertainties over the country's future with murder scene.

him at the helm. North Korea, which has been caught in a protracted economic crisis and isolated from the rest of the world, is suffering from an acute ener-Many North Korean factories are forced to operate at below capacity, and night

often plunges the capital into blackness. One of the last outposts of hardline communism, North Korea has amassed a susbstantial arsenal that could include nuclear arms, raising

fears for regional security among its neighbours. In a recent report, the Japan Forum on International Relations, an independent think-tank which submits twice-yearly recommendations to the Japanese prime

minister, voiced its pessimism on the future of the country. The situation was serious. it said, despite Pyongyang's move towards normalising relations with the United States and opening up to the outside

"It is still highly probable that economic collapse in the North will bring down its present system." it said. As a result, "Japan must

prepare to deal with an

emergency on the Korean peninsula," it added.

ter. Wu Shaozu, said on his arrival in Pyongyang Sunday LOS ANGELES (R) - O.J Simpson was back behind bars and life was returning to normal in his upscale neighbourhood Monday, but jurors in the American football legend's trial were left to ponder what they had seen on a weekend tour of the After three weeks of open-

ing statements and oftentimes riveting testimony, jurors Sunday finally had a chance to get a first-hand look at the now-infamous sites linked to the brutal slayings of his ex-wife Nicole Brown Simpson and her friends Ron Goldman.

Travelling in a heavily-guarded motorcade, the courtroom-on-wheels visited the luxury Brentwood townhouse where the victims were stabbed to death and Simpson's mansion where investigators found a trail of bloody

When it was over, both sides were eager to find in the jurors' dispassionate faces any sign that they had been swayed in their favour. Jurors looked on Sunday as

Simpson — back home for the first time in eight months - stood on his front lawn near the children's play area where his attorneys say he was practicing his golf swing around the time of the murders last June 12.

And jurors watched as Simpson's mood shifted from one of chatting amiably with his attorneys to waiting in sombre silence until the tour was over, according to pool reporters at the scene.



The 14-vehicle motorcade containing the O.J. Simpson trial jury stops in front of the Mezzahma Restaurant to give the jurors (in bus) a view of the restaurant of their way to Nicole Brown Simpson's condominium, where

At Nicole's condominium, they saw a tiled walkway that prosecutors say was so narrow that Simpson could have easily cornered his victims but defence attorneys contend was so narrow that no attacker could have escaped

prescathed. By having jurors travel the two miles (3 km) from Simpson's mansion to the crime scene, prosecutors hoped to undercut the defence argument that he could not have committed the murders and returned home in time to catch a limousine to the air-

"I think it was very, very good for the jury to be able to see the relationship of each of the locations to each other,"

the murder of Ms. Brown Simpson and Ron Goldman took place on June 12, 1994. Goldman was a waiter at this restaurant, and Nicole Simpson and her family, ate dinner here the night of the murders (AFP photo) Deputy District Attorney watched on live television.

Marcia Clark told reporters. Crowds of onlookers But courtroom legend F. turned out to gawk at the Lee Bailey, a member of Simpson's legal "dream latest spectacle in the sensational murder trial, but they team," suggested that the were far fewer and less vocal jury's visit to the crime scene than the thousands who would only bolster the decheered and waved signs durfence theory that it would ing Simpson's flight from jushave taken more than one tice last summer. attacker to carry out the mur-

police on a bizarre, low-

speed chase with a gun press-ed to his head while millions

With court in recess until Tuesday, the 12 regular panellists and their alternates have plenty to think about. The last time Simpson set foot on his tree-shaded estate was June 17, 1994, when he surrendered after leading

The itinerary included the mansion where Simpson lived, the trendy Mezzaluna Restaurant where Nicole Brown Simpson ate her last meal and Goldman waited tables, and the townhouse where the two were mur-

The day started on a dramatic note in the downtown courtroom with Simpson, under pressure from his ex-wife's family, giving up his right to visit the murder scene and choosing rastead to stay in a police car a block away. With police helicopters hovering overhead, the entourage - including Judge Lance Ito, prosecutors and defence attorneys — set out in a 14-vehicle convoy. In an effort to insulate

jurors and preserve their anonymity, the judge ordered police to clamp a tight lid of security on the panel's highly publicised field More than 250 officers

bourhood. Streets were cordoned off, residents were confined to their homes and the air space was restricted. While most criminal defendants are allowed out in public only in handcuffs or legshackles, Simpson went on the field trip without any kind

of restraints. For jurors - mostly working-class citizens — the day seemed at times like something out of television's "Lifestyles Of The Rich And Famous," with Judge Ito as their stern-mannered tour guide.

They trooped through Nicole's \$795,000 Mediterranean-style villa and then inspected Simpson's multimillion-dollar estate, complete with tennis court, swimming pool and guesthouse. Jurors also had a chance to see the hall of fame running back's trophy room - something prosecutor Sheri Lewis had objected to as "a shrine to the defendant."



Mexican army soldiers mobilise to patrol the Paraje Tibon area of Chiapas for the presence of Zapatista National Liberation Army (EZLN) members. The rebei EZLN fighters allegedly withdrew into the jungle ahead of the army advance (AFP photo)

mediately be and Mexican rebels accuse government of abuse

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Rebel leaders in the southern state of Chiapas said four army helicopters bombarded areas around the town of Morelia and La Garrucha Friday, and they accused President Ernesto Zedillo of lying by saying the army was

advancing peacefully.
"You are lying, Mr. Zedillo. We are being bombed and machine-gunned," the Zapatista National Liberation Army said in a statement. The government of Ernesto Zedillo is killing us, it is killing children, it is beating up women and raping."

The Zapatistas said they were pulling back to avoid combat with the army as it advances into formerly rebelheld jungle and mountain areas, which began Thursday, but warned they will block the government from catching Marcos, who has led their 13-month-old uprising.

"We will not allow any-thing to happen to him and if something does happen to him, we will not stand here... with our arms crossed because we Zapatistas do not betray the blood of our dead." said the statement. which was signed by the recommittee.

At least 145 people killed in January 1994 when the rebels launched their uprising for Indian rights and wider democracy. But until Friday a ceasefire had held for more

The rebel communique

said thousands of civilians had been forced to flee their homes since the army pushed about 2,500 troops, backed by helicopters and small tanks, into the Leandon jungle to hunt down Marcos.

In Guadalope Tepeyac, a key rebel base 80 miles (130 kilometres) southeast of here, the army said all civilians in the town had left and refused to cooperate with their search for Marcos. The Zapatista claims of

rights abuses could not be independently verified because the army has sealed off the conflict zone. Witnesses said an international Red Cross team was barred from going into the town of More-lia Sunday morning.

The rebel leaders said they were still open to talks with the government but only if it calls off the manhunt aimed at nabbing Marcos.

"We reiterate our readiness for dialogue and to find a political solution to this problem but on condition that the pressure on Subcommander Marcos be called

It was the first word from the Zapatistas since Mr. Zedillo ordered the clampdown Thursday. Since then, the army has taken over a string of rebel-held towns while the guerrillas have fled deeper into the jungle. Despite news reports of intermittent fighting, the govern-

off," the rebels said.

ment has said all is calm. It was unclear if the army would follow the rebels in pursuit of its main target, masked Zapatista leader Subcommander Marcos.

Guatemalan President Ramiro De Leon Carpio said late Saturday he would mobilise troops on his side of the 500-mile (800 kilometres) Mexico-Guatemala border to prevent arms and rebels from leaving the neighbouring state of Chiapas.

Meanwhile Mexico's opposition National Action Party (PAN) claimed a sweeping victory early Monday in an election for governor in the western state of Jalisco, as voters turned en masse against the long-ruling party of President Zedillo.

Private polling firms who carried out sample surveys at voting booths during Sun-day's vote said the PAN carried some 54 per cent against 37 per cent for the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI).

It was the first state vote since Mr. Zedillo took office last Dec. 1. If electoral returns confirm PAN triumph. it would mark only the fourth time that the PRI has lost a governorship in 65 years of unbroken national rule.



Totzīle Indian children walk down a road as a Mexican army jeep (right) patrols the Paraje Tibon area of Chiapas. Members of the

Zapatista National Liberation Army reportedly withdrew from the area into the jungle ahead of the Mexcian Army (AFP photo)

Burma-Karen fight leaves Thailand bruised

MAE SOT, Thailand (AFP) - Fighting between ethnic Karen rebels and Burmese government troops has tested Thailand's determination to stay out of the conflict.

erapher and the f A 10-kilometre stretch of among those and Thai soil along the Moei River skirting the rear of the Karen National Union PACEDE DE (KNU) camp of Kawmoora Since said. The has borne the brunt of Ran-Police Dept goon's shelling of rebel suppannounced the f lines over the last two er og og rapher Tem

Burmese shells have repeatedly fallen wide of the mark by hundreds of metres overshooting Kawmoora's rear access and leaving Thai terri-

Much of the sparsely popu-

where flowers once framed its front steps. Huts have been abandoned.

The Thais fire warning shots when gunners from the other side overshoot their mark and have moved men into the low hills and underbrush to monitor any incur-

"This is not our fight, but

lated district of Wangkaew,

opposite Kawmoora, is now

deserted. Roads are pock-

marked from artillery explo-

sions and trees have been

At a Buddhist temple,

close to the Moei River that

forms the natural border be-

tween Thailand and Burma,

there is now a blast crater

shredded by shrapnel.

we will push back anyone who tries to come into Thailand," one Thai officer said.

Burmese troops have crossed here at least once. apparently to scout the rear of the Karen rebels' last major stronghold, which has proven impervious to frontal

Rebel fighters have said in interviews with AFP that they believe the Burmese will make another attempt to cross within four days, bringing artillery with them.

"They cannot get through our front line," said one fighter, a former school teacher, celebrating his 51st birthday Sunday with meager

league members.

Adding to Mr. Mandela's

woes were revelations last

week that Mr. Boesak, the

ANC's former leader for the

Western Cape and Mr. Man-

dela's favoured candidate for

the United Nations posting,

had "enriched himself sub-

stantially" at the expense of

his charity organisation, the

Foundation for Peace and

Danchurch Aid, a Danish

donor agency, said Thursday

that it would file criminal

charges against Mr. Boesak

after it received a legal report into some 2.7 million rand

(\$762,000) of missing aid money

earmarked for destitute black

children.

rations of rice and chicken in his bunker.

"The SLORC wants to come to both sides of our camp and fire from there. But that is Thailand," he

Burmese and KNU sources in this Thai border town said that the Rangoon junta, officially known as the State Law and Order Restoration Council (SLORC), has gathered 40 trucks loaded with munitions and artillery in Myawaddy, just 20 kilometres south of Kawmoora.

But Thai military officials expressed confidence that their Burmese counterparts would not risk retaliation by crossing the Moei in strength.

Winnie backs down, apologises to Mandela The president Sunday failed to defuse a row be-

TO THAT COPIES OF THE R works!" JOHANNESBURG (AFP)

— Winnie Mandela Monday pour 150 milion million). Police has backed down from a confrontation with President Nelson Mandela, her estranged husband, and women's sexual its apologised for recent scathing remarks against his government.

nd griphic Dis hair has king In a statement, Mrs. Man-Gered public inda dela said it had not been her ansored in Japan. intention "to insult the presiconsiderably is dent or to embarrass the government of national unity." President Mandela was re-

Wives jailed over below portedly stung by his over per ism last week of the government of national ment of national unity, in which she serves as deputy minister of arts PORT MUNICIPAL minister of arts, culture, sci-Nonday to New 1 Speaking at the Speaking at th

Speaking at the funeral of a by Papua for black policeman who was national to by tide slain by white collections. husbands in the ing a strike by black officers, queezing their in # she said the government. failed South Africans because it had not addressed racism in

the workplace.

Interpretation of kind the workplace.

The ANC's overindex town of salary indulgence" in reconciliation
what had a much to the country of in the court was a weakness.

weekend said an angry president had issued an ultimatum to Mrs. Mandela either to withdraw her criticism, resign

or face dismissal. In her statement Monday. Mrs. Mandela said she had merely been trying to "assure the masses that the government and the ruling African National Congress (ANC) are aware of and concerned about the flaws that the government must still deal with."

"The impression of the people is that we neither care nor know about these things," she added. "I was trying to correct that percep-

President Mandela has been facing growing calls for swift action against his wife and U.N. ambassadordesignate Allan Boesak, a former anti-apartheid leader who is also embroiled in a

controversy. Political oponents warned Monday that unless the South African leader acts against the two-high profile figures, his commitment to democratic, responsible and accountable government could be

Mr. Boesak has denied stealing money, claiming he tween his wife and the ANC was worth the massive salary paid to him, and put all the Women's League which she heads and which resulted in blame on his former assistant. Freddie Steenkamp. the surprise resignation of 11

But since the report was The 11, including Health made public. there has been a Minister Nkosazana Zuma groundswell of opinion and veteran anti-apartheid against Mr. Boesak, once the campaigner Adelaide Tamdoven of the anti-apartheid movement, and increasing bo, said they had quit in calls for Mr. Mandela to anger at Mrs. Mandela's alleged authoritarian leaddump him.

Boesak withdraws Mr. Boesak Monday gave

up his appointment as ambassador to the United Nations in Geneva. President Mandela said he

accepted Mr. Boesak's withdrawal from the U.N. post with regret." Mr. Boesak had his appointment suspended last

month because of accusations charity he led used donated money for personal expenses. In a statement Monday to the South African Press Association, Mr. Boesak said he also would sell his house to pay back money owed by the charity.

per year over the next five misation of government... but These were "indispensable years. Total French unemployment now stands at ab-

tive Prime Minister Edouard Balladur unveiled his presidential campaign programme Monday, promising to cut France's double-digit unemployment and to limit his own rule to a single, seven-year term.

PARIS (AFP) - Conserva-

Speaking at a podium emblazoned with his campaign slogan "Believing in France," Mr. Balladur also said that if elected, he would stage a referendum on broadening democracy and individual rights in France. The vote would modify the

constitution and in particular permit further referendums on specific issues, he said. The prime minister, addressing a press conference attended by his senior minis-ters, including Interior Minister Charles Pasqua, said he

backed a single mandate for

French presidents. He said he would put the proposal to parliament and the new legislation would apply to himself.

Under the present constitution, the mandate is renewable. Outgoing Socialist President Francois Mitterrand is currently completing his second seven-year term.

The first round of the presidential elections is to be held on April 23, with a secondround run-off on May 7 no candidate gets 50 per cent of the vote.

Concerning France's current 12.6 per cent unemployment rate, which opinion polls say is voters' top concern. Mr. Balladur outlined a six-point plan he said would cut joblessness by 200,000 out 3.3 million.

French premier unveils campaign programme

Balladur proposes limiting

Most of the points were already known and focus on lowering employer contributions to the heavily indebted state welfare system and providing incentives for parttime work.

Mr. Balladur's main conservative rival for the presidency, neo-Gaullist leader Jacques Chirac, has focused his campaign attacks on the Balladur government's failure to bring down unemployment or deal with the growing problem of poverty in the

The newly chosen Socialist Party candidate, Lionel Jospin, has also sharply attacked Mr. Balladur's employment policies.

On the referendum proposal, Mr. Balladur said: "The France that I want will give greater freedom to citizens... a greater place to democracy and individual rights.

"This reform should take place by means of a referendum to be organised in the six months following the presidential election," Mr. Balladur declared.

Mr. Balladur said he wanted to broaden "the scope of the referendum" to "all subjects essential for society" and that he would stage a framework referendum within six months of his election to modify the consti-

The people itself must be able to decide, not only on questions touching the orga-

also on all subjects essential for the reform of society," Mr. Balladur said. In this first press confer-

ence as a candidate, Mr. Balladur said France "must change and change in depth," with the support of the French, for that was "an absolute necessity."

He went on: "The France that I want is a France of equality of opportunity' which he said he would defend through education reform, a social security system "saved from bankruptcy," and regional development

Mr. Balladur said that France "has started moving again" and it was time to move into higher gear." The prime minister also

said France should retain a leading role within the European Union and he restated his commitment to the creation of a European single currency as soon as possible "if possible on Jan. 1, 1997."

Europe was "France's chance" and the Franco-German alliance was "the pivot." Jan. 1, 1997 is the first date set for the introduction of a single currency under the Maastricht Treaty for economic and political union in Europe. The later date is

The creation of a single currency is controversial within the rightist governing coalitison which Mr. Balladur heads.

The prime minister also vowed to continue policies to cut public deficits and to maintain monetary stability.

own rule, cut unemployment conditions" for any improv :ment in the employment situation, he told the press of

exoneration. Local taxation would be clarified and reformed and local taxes paid by companies would be reformed.

He would also reduce death duties rates on small estates and would reduce taxation on property transac-

Meanwhile the mayor of France's second biggest city Lvon went on trial Monday along with businessmen and a star television newscaster in a graft case symbolising a decade of easy money and poli-

tical sieze. The trial, due to last three weeks, captured public attention as the first major political corruption case coming to court among several probes shaking the French political scene in the campaign min-up to the April-May presidential

election. Mayor Michel Noir, who is to seek reelection next June, faced both boos and cheers as he arrived at the Lyon court.

He, his son-in-law and excampaign manager Pierre Botton, TF1 television presenter Patrick Poivre d'Arvor and nine others face charges of being accomplices to

The trial focuses on charges that Mr. Botton embezzled his own companies in the 1980s to promote the career of Noir, a 50-year-old Gaullist rebel and former trade minister once seen as a presidential

Daily's 'after Deng' reference sets Beijing abuzz

BEIJING (R) — An influential internal newspaper has set Beijing abuzz by printing the long-taboo words "after Deng Xiaoping" in a front-

page story.
Officials and analysts said Monday the appearance of the phrase in Friday's reference news could not have been an oversight and showed the Communist government to be preparing the public for the 90-year-old patriarch's death.

"This is a very clear and important signal," a central

"The central government is clearly hoping to ease the Chinese public into the post-Deng period," he said. 'In my memory this is the first time that phrase has been offered so prominently

to domestic readers." Reference News, sold at many newsstands despite being a secret "internal pub-lication", is a daily compilation of foreign news reports, many about China, prepared by the official Xinhua News Agency for government offi-

By many accounts, including those of daughter Deng Rong and a doctor, Wu Jieping, the health of the retired "chief architect" of China's market reforms has declined. fanning speculation that he may be near death.

Many Chinese say they are fascinated and frightened by the approach of what is widely seen as the death of an emperor, which could trigger a power struggle in China's leadership.

Reference News appeared to be trying to calm fears of post-Deng instability.

The words appeared in a Reuters dispatch from Washington in which President Bill Clinton's chief China adviser Winston Lord and Mr. Lord aide Peter Tomson said a looming trade war over copyright piracy in China and Mr. Deng's death would not affect the basic U.S. policy of broadly engag-

ing Beijing.
The same holds true with respect to Mr. Deng's death. "The United States fore-

coincided with a warning by

U.N. peacekeepers that

cooperation was deteriorat-

ing across Bosnia under the

ceasefire which Muslims and

Serbs signed at the new year.

ited Nations High Commis-sioner for Refugees (UNHCR) told reporters in

"The humanitarian situa-

tion is extremely critical in

the entire (Bihac) enclave

and now affects the most

privileged families. The food

situation is critical... the

word starvation is now

appropriate for the most

The isolated enclave is

under attack by Muslim re-

bels opposed to the Bosnian

povernment in Saraievo, and

More than 100,000 civi-

lians, including refugees, are

surrounded in parts of Bihac

still under the control of the

Muslim-led government

vulnerable cases."

by their Serb allies.

army's 5th Corps.

Saraievo:

Kris Janowski of the Un-

Xiaoping there will be no major changes in U.S. policy toward China, although pro-Taiwan moves being considered by Congress could worsen Sino-American ten sions," the Chinese-language Reference News quoted Mr. Tomson as saving.

Reference News stopped short of a literal translation of Mr. Tomson's actual words when ailing Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping dies."
"This is highly unusual, but

it is not the first time." said another capital resident who, like thousands of Chinese intellectuals, pores over Reference News every day for shifts in China's political

"This shows that the preparations (for Mr. Deng's death) are basically complete. This kind of thing should not come as a surprise. It should be quite normal," he added.

It remained unclear whether Mr. Deng was at his well-guarded family mansion north of Beijing's Forbidden City or, as some sources said,

being treated at the armv's high-tech Number 301 Hospital, where most senior leader are cared for. thout top Communist

party authorisation, no Chinese newspaper would dare to carry the kind of details about Mr. Deng's health that have appeared routinely in the foreign press. In the latest such report in

this week's German news weekly Der Spiegel, Mr. Deng's doctor was quoted as saying Mr. Deng had circulation problems and Parkir.health-could face a "rapid change" at any time.

Deng Rong told the New York Times last month that her father's health was declining "day by day", but sought in a more recent interview to calm intense speculation by denving that he could no longer walk or stand.

A Beijing-funded Hong Kong daily, Ta Kung Pao, quoted her Sunday as retreating to China's official line that Mr. Deng is "in good health for a 90-year-old" and still able to walk.

esees that after Mr. Deng **U.N.: Muslims are starving in Bihac**

Claes SARAJEVO (R) — Besieged Muslim-civilians in the criticised Bihac enclave in northwest Bosnía are starving under a good blockade, U.N. aid offiat NATO cials said Monday. The aid officials' report

BRUSSELS (AFP) -NATO Secretary General Willy Claes has come under criticism at NATO for presenting the opening of talks on security with five Middle Eastern and North African countries as a means of fighting Muslim fundamentalism. reliable sources said Monday.

NATO announced Wednesday that it was opening talks with Egypt, Israel, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia with the general aim of contributing "to security and stability in the Mediterranean as a whole."

The same day Mr. Claes was quoted in the British daily The Independent as saying that the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation's (NATO) new departure had been prompted by the rising tide of Islamic fundamentalism on the southern shores of the Mediteranean, which he termed the biggest threat to face the West since the end of the cold war.

only concerns him."

The rebels and Serb forces Reliable sources here said have tried to force them into the "dramatic and negative" surrender by blocking almost slant Claes had put on the all U.N. aid convoys since the talks had been strongly critispring of 1994, with barely 15 cised by several NATO ambassadors, particularly Spain, Italy and France. per cent of the food they need getting through. Government territory in

One alliance diplomat Bihac is hemmed in by the stressed that the interpretarebel Muslims and Croatian Serbs from the west and tion Mr. Claes have given north and by the Bosnian was "entirely personal and Serb Army (BSA) from the east and south.

"Several ambassadors Mr. Janowski said the BSA were not happy."

had promised to allow a convoy into the enclave Tuesday. But peacekeepers reported that heavy fighting was still

going on between the 5th Corps and BSA forces south and east of Bihac town. The U.N. confirmed that some of the fighting at the weekend resulted from counter-attacks by 5th Corps forces and Serb sources said the government troops had

captured territory. U.N. observers saw at least 900 BSA reinforcements being driven towards the en-

U.N. peacekeeping spokesman Gary Coward said that elsewhere in Bosnia, cooperation with the ceasefire agreement was diminishing, with both sides becoming obstructive.

The truce is supposed to last for four months while political leaders and international negotiators try to get a peace plan drawn up by the five major powers back on

track. The number of ceasefire violations has begun to creep up, with incidents in Saraievo and around the Muslim enclaves of Gorazde and Srebrenica in eastern Bosnia.

The U.N. continued to express puzzlement at the inability of NATO reconnaissance aircraft to identify planes seen over the Muslimcontrolled airport at Tuzla in northern Bosnia at the

U.N. soldiers using night vision goggles saw at least one cargo aircraft and a fighter aircraft circling over Tuzla Sunday night in apparent violation of the U.N. no-fly

weekend.

Mr. Coward said he could not understand why the flights were not detected by AWACS reconnaissance aircraft, which can see right across Bosnia's skies, or by NATO air patrols and added:

young soldier: Serbs have always opposed the opening of Tuzla Airport for humanitarian relief supplies in case it was also used to ship arms to Muslims.

a feverish imagination of a

'This is not the product of

The U.N. war crimes tri-bunal for Yugoslavia, based in the Hague, announced charges against 21 Serbs from the former Omarska prisoner of war camp in northern Bosnia and issued warrantes for their arrest. Only one has been detained so far.

The Serbs include camp commandant Zeljko Meakic and the charges covered genocide and crimes against humanity in the conduct of the camp for Bosnian Muslim and Croat prisoners.

The prisoners were held under armed guard in brutal conditions. ' the court alleged. "They were mur-dered, raped, sexually assaulted, several beaten an i otherwise mistreated."

The camp was set up in 1992 when Serbs were driving thousands of Croats and Muslims from their homes in northern Bosnia under an ethnic cleansing programme aimed at non-Serbs.

Meanwhile the self-styled Bosnian Serb parliament met Monday to discuss ongoing fighting in Bosnia and relations with Serbia amid the threat of a rift over the Western-backed peace plan for Bosnia, Serb officials said.

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High stake for **Denmark meet**

MARCH WILL witness the holding of yet another world conference on par with the World Conference on Human Rights that was held in Vienna in 1993. This time the theme of the international meeting will be social development.

The first question here is whether the proliferation of global gatherings on issues of concern to humanity is the right course in terms of their cost effectiveness. Judging by the experience painfully gained at the Vienna Human Rights Conference, we wonder if assembling high-level officials from all the countries of the world for a week or so is exactly the right way to go about dealing with social, economic or human rights developments. Given the fact that practically all the nations of the world are adequately represented in the United Nations and all its auxiliary bodies, it is doubtful that any activity outside the international orgamisation itself would be useful enough to justify the added expense or high expectations usually generated by such international fanfares.

We can all be see that what will be said and decided upon in Copenhagen on social development will be a mere repetition of what has already been said and done elsewhere in international fora. In fact the Vienna experiment on human rights vindicates this prognosis. As happened in the Austrian capital, Copenhagen will most probably experience the same old divisions between the haves and have-nots on how best to promote social development with no real prospect whatsoever to bridge the traditional gaps that exist among members of the international community.

Additionally, the conflicting perspectives on the issue could be accentuated and in the process they could perpetuate the standoff between North and South. This is all the more likely to happen because social development cannot be addressed independently of economic progress and economic concerns cannot be dealt with in isolation from human rights, and so on. It would seem more pragmatic and logical therefore to debate all related issues together instead of attempting to achieve the task piecemeal, as indeed the world tried in Vienna and now projected to do the same in

Copenhagen.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

COMMENTING ON the Arab-Israeli meeting in Washington, a columnist in Al Ra'i daily said Monday that without Israel's implementation of the Oslo and Cairo agreements, such meeting would be useless. The Israelis consider the meeting as a coalition against the enemies of peace between the Arabs and Israel, but where is that peace that is worth defending? Asked Mahmoud Rimawi. The real enemies of peace are those who place obstacle in its path and refuse to implement U.N. resolutions which call for the return of Arab lands in Syria, Lebanon and Palestine to their legitimate owners, said the writer. If Israel does not want to return the occupied territories to the Arabs, refuses to implement the Oslo agreement and denies the Palestinians their basic rights, it can by no means hope for peace, continued the writer. It is clear to all parties, including the United States and the world community, that the enemies of peace are those who continue to reject the international legitimacy and fail to honour their commitment, added the writer. Without the attainment of peace on the Israeli-Syrian and Israeli-Palestinian tracks, he said. the concept of comprehensive peace remains out of reach.

A COLUMNIST in Al Dustour lauded the Turkish government for its efforts to reactivate the oil pipeline that carries oil from Iraq to the Turkish shores, and urged Arab states to take the initiative towards ensuring the success of these efforts. Mohammad Kawash said Turkey is to be commended for its quest but it would have been better to hear its government taking steps towards terminating the embargo altogether. The embargo is not justified any more and is in place to serve the interests of the United States and its allies at the expense of misery of 18 million Iraqis, said the writer. Turkey, along with the other Islamic and Arab countries, ought to take serious steps towards lifting the sanctions that have caused untold sufferings for the Iraqi people, he continued.

The View from Fourth Circle

Religion, NATO and the lands of chaos

IN CASE you missed the news, you should know that late last week the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) declared war — more or less — on Islam. A meeting of NATO ambassadors decided to launch a dialogue with five North African Arab states in order to develop a joint strategy to combat "the security threat posed by Islamic fundamentalism," in the words of the Washington Post

This move comes after several years of concern in Europe that political instability and economic stagnation along its southern rim pose a greater threat to Europe in the long term than events in the former Soviet Union. NATO Secretary General Willy Claes told a security conference in Germany last weekend that ever since the cold war ended, "Islamic militancy has emerged as perhaps the single gravest threat to the NATO alliance and to Western security," according to the Washington Post.

Pretty heavy stuff, but also pretty far off the mark. Europe is not worried per se about "political instability," or mass suffering or dying throughout the Mediterranean Basin. What NATO really fears in the Mediterranean Basin — and give them credit for being honest about it — is mass Arab/Islamic emigration to Europe. It is the same fear that prompted the United States to invade Haiti last

Since the end of the cold war, we have heard assorted theories and frameworks that seek to give order to the new global political forces. Among the most popular are: That nationalistic warfare based on ethnic and religious identities could become more common throughout the world. and that the predominantly Christian West could find itself in an increasingly grave confrontation with Islam, or the Islamic World, or militant Muslims, or Muslim rage, or something else along those lines that is equally vague and

As we witness the gradual fulfilment of this prophecy, we should also be challenged to better come to terms with the real nature of the confrontation that now, in round one, pits NATO against the activist Islamism of the Mediterranean Basin. It is too simplistic and easy to call this a West-Islam conflict, much as this appeals to the intellectual circus-masters in some parts of the United States and Western Europe. The problem that militant Islamism expresses is much deeper, and far older. That greater problem is hinted at but not fully grasped by some in the West. The Economist magazine in early January said that the only major threats to the West in the near future could come from a stronger Russia, a more hostile China, or if "somebody organises an expansionary Islamic power out of the present chaos between Iran and Morocco.

Well thank you, guv, I feel much better knowing that what ails me is that I am part of "the present chaos between Iran and Morocco." (In fact, the "chaos" extends well beyond Iran and Morocco, especially to regions that Great Britain once colonised, but let's leave that for later). The relevant point is that we are now seeing the cultural, intellectual and geo-political outlines of an increasingly worned and more overtly racist Western perception of events in much of the Arab/Islamic world. That perception believes that our region is a mess, it spawns violence, it threatens European and Western basic security interests, and it has to be dealt with through the political or even military mechanism of NATO.

This is a terrible Western miscalculation and policy

mistake that is likely to exacerbate the Middle East's underlying disparities and tensions, and only increase the likelihood of conflict between these two blocs of states. The spectre of NATO governments working closely with Arab/Islamic governments to suppress the indigenous expressions of political Islamism throughout the Mediterranean Basin will succeed no better than, say, the Roman imperial government's attempts to work with local vassals to outlaw Christianity in the first century A.D., or the attempts by the prevailing tribal/commercial regional power structure to quash the spread of Islam in the Hijaz and beyond in the 7th century A.D. When prevailing political-economic orders are not satisfactory to a majority of their people, they have to change in order to promote human equity and social peace, or else they will be changed

Religions — and especially religions that are pressed into the cause of political and nationalistic activism - are expresions of the deeper needs and discomforts that bring about such change. In our case, in our universe of Arab/Islamic/Middle Eastern chaos, militant Islamism emerged in the 1980s as the most natural, perhaps even the only possible, antidote to a whole range of problems that plagued and still plague our region and our cultures problems of police states and authoritarianism, of widespread corruption and incompetence in the public sector, of

imposed and largely ineffective Western systems of govern-ance, of increasingly grave economic and resources imbalances, and of a brand of deep social and political alienation that has many cultural, political and economic causes.
We and the West should work together to answer some

very simple questions: Why is it that a once grand and productive Arab/Islamic culture has staggered towards the end of the second millennium in such a state of chaos that the world's greatest military alliance sees fit to target it as the mos serious global security thret of the early years of the third millennium? Why have our people turned to the comforts of religion, historical memories, and, in some cases, violence as answers to the contemporary probles that trouble them and to the fear of a desperate future that haunts their children?

There are, in fact, reasons for our chaos, and method to our madness. Of course, it is inconvenient for the West to recall that most of the chaotic lands being targetted by NATO today were directly colonised by European powers, often for a hundred years or more. The colonial experience and its transition to post-colonial dependent statehood left us with some serendipitous new countries, quite a few nice railway systems, many gigantic bureaucracies, and hundreds of millions of people who now gravitate between chaos and God - between, on the one hand, the reality of brittle political-economic governance systems that are sustained only by larger and larger doses of foreign economic and security assistance, and, on the other hand, the people's collective hope for a better, more human and

It would be a lot more effective, less traumatic and considerably cheaper for NATO - and for we of the chaotic zones - to investigate and eliminate the causes of our chaos, rather than to flail fearfully and childishly at its surface manifestations. This is what the world has done with some intelligence and much composure in Russia, Eastern Europe, Haiti, South Africa and other distressed lands, where it has systematically tried to address the underlying causes of instability. Why does it not do it in our lands? What is it about us and our lands that has made security. rather than justice and decency, our single most important defining criterion during the last two hundred years? Are we animals who must be pacified, or humans who must live in dignity and hope? Now there's something useful for



Ecuador's fierce resistance surprises Peru in border war

By Monte Hayes The Associated Press

QUITO — The jungle birds around Condor Mirador, an Ecuadorean military lookout_atop a mountain chain on Ecuador's disputed border with Peru, have ceased their chattering. They wait in silence for the next

This past week Peruvian warplanes rocketed the base repeatedly, peppering the surrounding jungle with bombs that left 32 craters three metres deep and eight metres wide.

But the bombing raids failed to dislodge the Ecuadorean troops dug into the mountaintop. Nor have Peruvian commandos had much success in pushing Ecuadorean forces from three key border posts Peru claims are within its terri-

As the conflict over two nations' jungle border entered its third week, Peru's generals were no longer speaking of an easy victory.

Peru has an army twice the size of Ecuador's and its soldiers have honed their fighting skills in a 15-year war with Maoist guerrillas.

But Ecuador has surprised its much bigger neighbour by putting up fierce resistance in the fight over a 77-kilometre por-

tion of unmarked border. Military experts are now saying Ecuador could bog Peru down in a long grind-ing standoff that would test the will of both nations to accept mounting casualties.

So far. Peru has had the heaviest losses. The Peruvians "thought

they would finish this off in 10 hours," said Luis Eladio Proano, a civilian consultant to Ecuador's Defence Ministry. "They sent in a first wave with no results. They escalated the conflict and that didn't work. Then they came in with planes. helicopters — absolutely everything — and it had no

Fighting is concentrated in a 100-square-kilometre horseshoe-shaped area at the head waters of the Cenepa River 350 kilometres southeast of Quito and 1,000 kilometres north of Lima, the Peruvian capital.

The Ecuadorean forces hold the high ground along the river, including the heights of the 2.000-metre Condor Mountain range. From there they fire mortars down on Peruvian

Both Ecuador and Peru are believed to have at least 4.000 soldiers in the river valley and adjacent areas, but fighting is taking place mainly between 49-man patrols armed with machine guns, grenades and mortars. Thick vegetation and broken terrain prevent large troop movements or use of tanks.

Those familiar with the area say it can take three hours to move 11/2 kilometres through the dense jungle. The Peruvians are trying to fight their way

up 300-metre hills in 55-degree Celsius (100-degree Fahrenheit) weather. It's a region where mosquitoes and other insect abound.

Ecuador's troops have the advantage of defending familiar territory that has been traditionally controlled by Ecuador. In recent years their jungle battalions have incorporated members of local Indian tribes.

The Peruvian troops are taking losses from mined trails and concealed. Vietnam-style pits containing stakes.

Ecuador also has the advantage of short supply lines. The Ecuadorean army trucks in its ammunition to its rocket launcher batteries at Condor Mirador over a road that runs up the western side of the mountain chain.

Peru must ferry soldiers and supplies by helicopter 140 kilometres up the Cenepa River valley, which is less than 16 kilometres wide at some points. That exposes the aircraft to Ecuadorean shouldermounted anti-aircraft mis-

Ecuador says its troops have shot down four Peruvian helicopters and two warplanes. Peru acknowledges the loss of two helicopters and a Canberra bomber.

Peru is also suffering higher casualties. It says 36 of its soldiers have been killed, 60 have been wounded and another 70 are missing in action. Ecuador says and another 28 have been wounded. The Ecuadorean armed

forces appear confident they can hold their defensive positions indefinitely. Mr. Proano said Peru's

generals apparently thought they were going to have as easy a time as in 1981 when they took an Ecuadorean border post in four days of fighting that killed eight Ecuadorean soldiers and one Peruvian soldier. But since then Ecuador

"has really done an excellent job of preparing its people for jungle warfare," he said.

Although Peru's military has at least double the manpower and equipment of Ecuador, much of its armament is old and poorly maintained, says Peruvian experts.

"The counter-insurgency struggle gave them combat experience, but it also took a toll on their equipment," said Fernando Rospigliosi, a political scientist in Lima who has studied Peru's

He noted that Peru's armed forces also suffer from internal divisions and purges of the officer corps by President Alberto Fujimori.
"He has weakened the

military command," Mr. Rospigliosi said. "The people in command positions are there because they are loyal to him, not because they are the most qualified to fight a war.'

Italy's Northern League in search of new role

Reuter

MILAH - Northern League leader Umberto Bossi has tightened his grip on the party machine with a vote of confidence, but even his supporters agree Italy's once-rampant federalists are in deep political trouble.

The mercurial Bossi; whose leadership of the party he founded has been under rare attack, won overwhelming backing from a national congress at the weekend to remain at the

support could not hide fears for the future as the party once Italy's fastest growing — searches for a new political role after dramatically breaking with former prime minister Silvio Berlusconi and his "Freedom

Mr. Bossi brought down Mr. Berlusconi after seven turbulent months when he withdrew from the centreright alliance just before Christmas, accusing the billionaire businessman of being a threat to democracy because of his huge television interests.

The league leader was unrepentant as he addressed the 5,000 cheering supporters and delegates at the three-day national congress that ended Sunday.
"We have broken the

siege of 'king' Berlusconi, the Frankenstein of the (political) right," he said.
"This country has so many problems but the first was to save it from Berlusconi," he said to ringing applause.

But the decision to topple the government cost Mr. Bossi around one third of the league's members of parliament, most of whom broke away to form a rival federalist group.

He suffered another loss during the congress when his party deputy, former interior minister Roberto Maroni, said he was quitting parliament in protest at the leader's line.

Opinion polls show the break with Mr. Berlusconi. whose government was the first to be elected since the graft scandals buried Italy's traditional parties, will also cost Mr. Bossi votes.

The surveys suggest sup-port for the Northern League, which wants Italy turned into a federalist state to break the power of central government, has slumped to less than half the 8.5 per cent it won across the country in elections last March.

If confirmed in an election, the party would see its representation in both houses of parliament crumble to a handful of seats from the 177 it won in

Until the rebels broke away, the league had been the largest single party in

the legislature thanks to an electoral accord with Mr. Berlusconi letting its candidates stand for the "Freedom Alliance" across much of the rich north.

"We seem to have taken the wrong turning, down a street with no exit," said a despondent Francesco Tablandini, league leader in the senate (upper house).

Mr. Bossi may have scuttled his arch-enemy Berlusconi but his plan for an alternative parliamentary alliance with opposition parties was thwarted by the rebellion within his own

New Prime Minister Lamberto Dini, a former central banker, comfortably won confidence votes, but only because Mr. Berlusconi and his allies in the hardright national alliance abstained.

Mr. Dini, who presides over a cabinet of nonpartisan technocrats, has said he will stand down as soon as he has completed a limited programme of economic and political reform.

This could be as early as June, leaving the embattled league leader with little time to prepare a new political strategy.

Mr. Bossi told delegates he wanted the league to become the hub of a new centrist political alliance independent of Mr. Berlusconi on the right and the former communist Democratic Party of the left

(PDS) on the political left. But critics say the elec-toral reform that has put a largely first-past-the-post vote in the place of the almost pure proportional electoral system of the past. means Italy is moving towards a two-party system with no middle ground.

"We have to choose, either with the alliance (of Berlusconi) or with the left. (If we remain) alone we are heading for defeat," Mr. Maroni said in his resignation speech to the congress.

But if the unpredictable Mr. Bossi opts to ally himself with the PDS in the coming general election. there are big doubts whether his electorate will follow him.

Bedrock support for the league comes from small businessmen and the selfemployed artisans of the rich north for whom the party was an outlet for anger at inefficient and expensive government in Rome. For them, the left means more taxes and more gov-

"The polls say that if we go with the PDS, out 🚁 🎉 electorate will not followus." said league parliamentarian Antonio Mara-

Following are the texts Jordan, Egypt and Israe Liberation Organisation Warren Christopher:

Satement by Secretary Israeli-Palestinian conci Washington, DC.

THIS morning I had a productive meeting with 1 mon Peres and Nab Sha'ath. Both made it und takably clear that Israeli . Palestinians - while aw of the challenges they face are committed to a reat pa nership with one another : to using that partnership reach real peace. And S expressed their determin tion that there can be ruming back and that if must find ways to overco-the challenges ahead. I wards this end, they agree on the following stateme which I want to report to vi First, both Israelis à Palestinians made clear th determination to fulfill elements of their agreemen and to ensure their imp.

Second, both parties a pressed understanding : one another's needs and t quirements. They are affirmed that fulfilling the needs requires a cooperati and inter-related approac

Philippin suspect w MANILA (Agencies) - Th

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mercial airliners and foreign Chief Superintenden: Romeo Acop, director of the ciminal investigation service, said charges of murder. attempted murder and illegal possession of explosives would be filed against Mr.

Yousef and two other unidentified people. A stewardess aboard the Manila-Cebu-Tokyo PAL flight on Dec. 11 has identified Mr. Yousef as being among the passengers before a bomb went off in mid-zir killing a Japanese businessman and injuring six others,

authorities said. Mr. Acop also said a sample of the suspect's handwriting. taken from an information sheet he filled in when he bought his ticket, had been sent to the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) for analysis.

Charges were being filed against the others so that police could "secure a war-

Hundreds pro

wounds on his way to hos-Israel Radio said he was apparently taking a passenger towards the West Bank Jewsh settlement of Maale Adumin, on a main and a language.

mim, on a main road that also leads to the Palestinian selfrule area of Jericho. Jerusalem police chief Arye Amit told army radio: The main direction of the

investigation at this stage is heading towards a nationalist Asked if the attack might

have been timed to coincide with the anniversary of a Jewish settler's killing of more than 30 Muslim worshippers In Hebron a year ago. Amit said: "It could be that in the sion ..."

Witnesses said the taxi had stopped about 500 metres short of an army checkpoint. just below an Arab village.
Police found a knife on a village to the

Paramilitary border police rounded up dozens of Arabs near the scene and in Palestinian naid. nian neighbourhoods on the hearly Mount of Olives in Palestini Jerusalem. Palestinians sources said

Mr. Arafat was angry that 3,000 labourers who work in large showed in time for Istael showed up at a time for

Aith oppos · · · · · · · · · · · the ancolo within be Now Prime Mie ------- Dim. 5 k in anker and the starter and recourse Mr. Bec. .. _ - Jana allies in the ational aliane Mr. Dani, who 🗷 ge a aubinei dit · · · · · · · technociali g he will stand as

- ne has compe grogramme 22 and political = · Could be \$55 ... une the esta prepare a nei P211.7 er Bossi told n inted the less the nub of with [Entires] **Hundreds protest closure** ent of Mr. Rais ... :n= n<u>e</u>hl **a**d Communici Je Patty of the in the political entics sy fit:

reform that has apparently taking a passenger orst-past-leti towards the West Bank Jewthe place of ish settlement of Maale Adunure propine mim, on a main road that also leads to the Palestinian self-... n. Italy is fine rule area of Jericho. we part as Jerusalem police chief Arye Amit told army radio: with the alisase The main direction of the investigation at this stage is om) or with the heading towards a nationalist seman) done motive. ing for deice Asked if the attack might Sand in his reahave been timed to coincide seech to the ing with the anniversary of a Jew-Sit if the unpredict. ish settler's killing of more Boss opts to all I than 30 Muslim worshippers in Hebron a year ago, Amit said: "It could be that in the ng general - ic hie da end we will reach that concluhis electricates sion.' Witnesses said the taxi had a circle support for w him stopped about 500 metres Comes from \$ short of an army checkpoint, Police found a knife on a rocky hillside leading to the village. was an ould be be. inefficient after rounded up dozens of Arabs near the scene and in Bernard in the jet of the person here and mer in man neighbourhoods there and in Palestinian neighbourhoods on the nearby Mount of Oren

and market for a

Palestinians sources said Mr. Arafat was angry that only a fraction of Gaza's 23,000 labourers who work in Israel showed up at a time for

Washington communiques reaffirm commitment to peace Following are the texts of statements issued after a meeting on Sunday in Washington by the foreign ministers of Jordan, Egypt and Israel, representative of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher;

Statement by Secretary of State Warren Christopher on Israeli-Palestinian conclusions reached at Blair House, Washington, DC.

THIS morning I had a very productive meeting with Shi-mon Peres and Nabeel Sha'ath. Both made it unmistakably clear that Israeli and Palestinians — while aware of the challenges they face are committed to a real partnership with one another and to using that partnership to reach real peace. And both expressed their determination that there can be no turning back and that they must find ways to overcome the challenges ahead. Towards this end, they agreed on the following statements

which I want to report to you. First, both Israelis and Palestinians made clear their determination to fulfill all elements of their agreements and to ensure their implementation.

Second, both parties expressed understanding for one another's needs and requirements. They also affirmed that fulfilling these needs requires a cooperative and inter-related approach.

Both parties agree that the question of Israeli security needs and Palestinian political and economic needs must be satisfied.

Third, for its part, the

Palestinian Authority is com-mitted to the full implementation of the Gaza-Jericho accord and to the second phase of the Declaration of Principles, and to preempting terror, punishing those responsible and denying those who plan and carry out terror or violence in any safehaven. Both parties made clear that the application of these measures would significantly enhance the conditions for security, stability, and a normalised economic life and cooperation based on the free movements of peoples, materials, and goods in accordance with the agreements. Israel is committed to the full implementation of the Gaza-

Jericho accord and to the

second phase of the Declara-

tion of Principles. In this

regard, both sides reaffirmed

their commitment to negotiate promptly all aspects of the interim agreement, including transfer of authority and redeployment in the rest of the West Bank, and elections, in accordance with the Declaration of Principles.

Finally, both parties agreed that these understandings can help to build the trust and confidence so necessary to being able to move forward expeditiously through all phases of this process. Both sides expressed their determination to use these understandings to work towards a successful Israeli-Palestinian meeting next

Blair House joint communi-The U.S., Egypt, Israel, Jordan, the Palestinian Authority

Washington, D.C. Feb. 12, 1995 ON FEBRUARY 12, 1995. the United States hosted a follow-up meeting in Washington of the Feb. 2, 1995 Cairo Summit of representatives from Israel, Egypt. Jordan, and the Palestinian Authority. President Clinton, accompanied by Vice-President Gore, addressed the gathering which was attended by Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa, Jordanian Foreign Minister Abdul Karim Al Kabariti, Palestinian Authority Minister of Planning and International Cooperation Nabeel Sha'ath, Secretary of State Warren Christopher, and Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Victor Posuvalyuk who participated as an obser-

The five participants acknowledged the leadership of Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak in hosting the Cairo Summit. Building on that historic meeting, the five participants reaffirmed their determination to consolidate the breakthroughs achieved in the Arab-Israeli peace process, to overcome obstacles and disputes, and to push forward towards a just, lasting and comprehensive peace in the region based on United Nations Security Council Resolutio 242 and 338 thus leading to a lasting reconciliation among the peoples of the Middle East cemented by bonds of mutual respect and dignity, tolerance, cooperation, security, and peaceful

relations. Towards this end, the five parties represented in Washington have joined together to act to further cooperation in support of

peace. Because peace requires concerted action, the parties agreed to explore practical steps in the political, economic, security, and human dimension areas of education and culture. They also agreed to meet as necessary to consult and to coordinate action in these areas. Experts will follow up in each

of these areas as appropriate.

In the political area, the parties reaffirmed their strong commitment to honouring those agreements already concluded in letter and spirit nad to accelerate negotiations on all tracks. The Secretary of State reported on the conclusions reached between Israel and the Palestinian Authority that constitute an integral part of this communique. The participants in today's meeting welcomed the results achieved by Israel and the Palestinian Authority and pledged to do all they could to support the conclusion of the Israeli-Palestinian peace process. The parties also expressed appreciation for the continuation of the implementation of the Israeli-Jordanian peace treaty in ali its aspects. They further expressed the hope that a peace agreement between Israel

could be reached soon, leading to comprehensive peace. With respect to security,

the parties agreed that there

can be no real peace in the

region without security and stability. The parties declared that they are committed to combat all acts that aim to destroy the peace process, particularly acts of terrorism and violence and to stand staunchly against and put an end to all such acts. The parties reaffirmed the intention expressed at the Cairo Summit that within the framework of peace and reconciliation in the region, with enhanced security, economic prosperity and a higher standard of living for their people, they intend to achieve equal security and mutual confidence at lower levels of armaments, appreciating President Mubarak's disarmament proposal on weapons of mass destruction. The parties shall pursue a mutually verifiable Middle East zone free of weapons of mass destruction, nuclear, chemical and biological, and

their delivery systems. In the economic area, they reaffirmed the importance of fostering economic development and investment in the region. The parties agreed to support assistance to Palesti-

the lives of wounded people and keep prisoners alive."

Nisham Isha's son, under-

and strengthening of the Palestinian economy through various means, including the creation of industrial zones in the West Bank and Gaza. The parties are committed to excplore the removal of barriers to trade. They will also explore ways to promote liberalised trade between the

parties and the United States. In this regard, the parties expressed appreciation to the United States for its proposal to extend duty free treatment to products from industrial 20nes that may be established in Taba, Eilat, and Agaba. The United States will consult further with the parties and the U.S. Congress on this matter. At the same time, the parties took note of progres and agreed to continue their efforts towards the establishment of a Middle East Development Bank. Such an institution would serve to fund developmeent projects and the promotion of private sec-

To undersore the publicprivate partnerships embodied in the Casablanca Declaration, the four parties agreed to the promotion of private sector projects. The parties will work together with the private sector for the success of the Amman Eco-

tor investment.

nomic Summit in October. In the human dimension, the parties also agreed on the need to build bridges between peoples, to overcome barriers to understanding, and to share knowledge and expertiese to deal with common problems. The parties also agreed to explore the possibilities of new and more creative forms of cooperation

in these areas. Finally, the parties pledged to work to ensure that there can be no turning back in the Arab-Israeli peace process. They agreed to do all in their power to work towards the achievement of a comprehensive peace and to create a Middle East with peace, security and economic prosperity for all the people of the region. In this regard, they pledged their continued support for the efforts and contributions of the multilateral track of the peace

In light of our commitment to pursue a comprehensive peace, the United States will be consulting with its Russian co-sponsor, the Euroepan Union as well as with Norway, Japan and other regional participants in the peace process on ways to promote mon goals.

Philippines to charge New York suspect with airline bombing

MANILA (Agencies) — The alleged mastermind behind the 1993 World Trade Centre bombing in New York will also be charged in connection with a blast on a Philippine Airlines flight that killed one person in December, authorities said Monday.

The statement marked the first official confirmation here that Ramzi Yousef, who was arrested in Pakistan and extradited to the United States last week, had been in

the Philippines. Philippine National Police (PNP) chief Recaredo Sarmiento said earlier Monday that the Philippine Airlines (PAL) bombing was a "test run" for other plots here including an attack on Popé John Paul II during his January visit and on U.S. commercial airliners and foreign

embassies. Chief Superintendent Romeo Acop, director of the criminal investigation service, said charges of murder, attempted murder and illegal possession of explosives would be filed against Mr. Yousef and two other un-

identified people. A stewardess aboard the Manila-Cebu-Tokyo PAL flight on Dec. 11 has identified Mr. Yousef as being among the passengers before a bomb went off in mid-air killing a Japanese businessman and injuring six others,

authorities said. Mr. Acop also said a sample of the suspect's handwriting, taken from an information sheet he filled in when he bought his ticket, had been sent to the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation

(FBI) for analysis. Charges were being filed against the others so that police could "secure a war-

wounds on his way to hos-

Israel Radio said he was

pital.

rant of arrest against them in case they will be sighted in the country again," Mr.

Acop said. Mr. Sarmiento said a Jan. 7 raid on a Manila apartment which Mr. Youses's group was using uncovered vital evi-

dence. The room was listed in the name of Naji Owaidah Had-"who after further analysis of seized documents. turned out to be Ramzi Mr. Sarmiento Yousef." alleged.

"The timely conveyance of vital information... can be said to have prevented the implementation of plans to harm the Pope, U.S. aircraft and foreign embassies and which consequently led to the arrest of Yousef in Pakistan," Mr. Sarmiento said.

Mr. Sarmiento said Mr. Yousef was part of a group of 15 to 20 foreigners and five Filipinos allegedly involved in planning the attacks here. adding that the others were still at large.

Police earlier said that among the items seized in the apartment were a monk's cassock, a bible, pictures of the Pope and a map of the Pope's route.

When asked about earlier claims by the government that two foreign Muslims were arrested during their raid on the apartment, Mr. Sarmiento just smiled and refused to speak.

changed its position and said no one was arrested in the Mr. Sarmiento would not say when Mr. Yousef left the

The government later

country for Pakistan. The raid on the apartment. located near the route often travelled by the Pope during his visit here from Jan. 12 to

the rally when he was de-

nouncing the Israeli closure

as a deliberate attempt to

head of Gaza's Chamber of

Commerce, said the workers

plan to demonstrate and

stage sit-ins nearly every day

until the borders with Israel

He explained the low turn-

out Monday by saying the union made the decision to

hold the march late Sunday.

thus making it hard to notify

all the workers in the strip.

damentalist Hamas move-

ment, which fields the largest

opposition to Mr. Arafat's

leadership, said pro-Hamas

the march because the party

had not been informed about

crack down on fundamental-

ist opponents could spark a

Hamas spokesman Ibrahim

Gosheh said: "Arafat could

provoke a Palestinian civil

war whose scope and impact

on the region cannot be pre-

Mr. Goshe told AFP in

Amman that U.S. President

Bill Clinton's remarks at an

Palestinian "civil war."

dicted.

Hamas also warned Mon-

A member of the fun-

are open.

Mohammed Al Kidwa,

squeeze the Palesunians.

(Continued from page 1)

16, uncovered "a computer, documents, timing devices and other materials," for use in making "glycerine/nitro

Mr. Sarmiento said the government was cooperating with U.S. federal authorities and other foreign govern-ments to identify the other conspirators adding that "valuable pieces of material were made availevidence,' able to the FBI.

cellulose explosives."

Manila since late last year but police got on his trail only on Jan. 6 when a fire broke out in room 306 of an apartment building in which he was believed to be making bombs. Police said Mr. Yousef, variously identified as a Pakistani or an Iraqi, escaped

Mr. Yousef had been in

during the fire but two of his associates were captured. Police described Mr. Yousef as a "master of dis-Intelligence files say he is blind in the right eye and has

a weakness for women. Mr. Sarmiento said the liquid bomb which exploded on the PAL flight and forced it to land in Okinawa was made of the same materials found in the apartment where

Mr. Yousef was staying. The explosive material consisted of bits of cotton soaked in nitroglycerine and other chemicals. Investigators noted nitroglycerine was a very unstable liquid which could explode even if shaken only slightly.

They said Mr. Yousef used an Italian name, Arnaldo Forlani, in boarding the PAL plane in Manila. The bomb was planted when the aircraft flew to the central Philippine island of Cebu, where it picked up Japanese passengers.

Washington Sunday showed

"the existence of pressure on

the Palestinian Authority for

it to take firm measures against the Islamic opposi-Meanwhile, more than 100 members of Palestinian groups opposed to the peace process with Israel held a sit-in Monday in Damascus to protest the arrests by the self-rule authority and others

by the Israeli army on the West Bank. The demonstrators, who gathered at the Syrian offices of the International Committee of the Red Cross, gave Red Cross officials a message condemning "Yasser Arafat's submission to the conditions of the Israeli government and

his commitments to Israel.' Israel and the PLO Monday agreed on a system for labourers did not take part in ensuring regular deliveries of petrol to the autonomous Gaza Strip.

Israel will deliver fuel to its border with the Strip, where day that U.S. and Israeli . Palestinians will take charge pressure on Mr. Arafat to of the distribution themselves.

The new system was agreed by Israeli Energy Minister Gonen Segev and Palestinian Economic Minister Ahmad Qouriea during talks at the Erez crossing between Israel and the Strip.

Israel halted deliveries of fuel to Gaza after opponents of the peace process ambushed a convoy of tank-Arab-Israeli meeting in ers a week ago.

'Verifying the kill' scandal refuses to die down

TEL AVIV (AP) — Allegations that Israeli soldiers have orders to kill wounded enemies have been rekindled by the death of an officer reportedly mistaken for a Lebanese guerrilla and shot

by his own comrades. According to media re-ports, major Kiwan Hamed's own troops shot him from a far, and then, still thinking he was a guerrilla, approached to pump bullets into his head to make sure he was dead. The army denies that the

long-rumored procedure known as "veryfying the kill" exists: the prospect is unsettling for a military that prides itself on its high standard of ethics in the battlefield. But the army's denials

have been challenged by numerous testimonies — and a videotape Israel TV aired on Sunday that showed troops shooting to death a Palestinian who lay wounded on the ground.

The videotape, filmed four months ago by a Palestinian cameraman showed Israeli troops carefully approaching and killing the prostrate Palestinian, whom had they shot minutes earlier after he

stabbed a soldier. A retired colonel who once headed an elite commando unit told the Associated press the procedure emerged in the 1970s as part of the doctrine of fighting hostage-holding

and both Svria and Lebanon

Because the army feared the extremists were carrying explosive belts and might activate them even if wounded, the policy was introduced to save hostages, said the officer, speaking on condition of anonymity.

He said Monday that the practice is used when soldiers do not have time to check which enemy still presents a danger or in commando activities when taking a prisoners is impossible. Yizhar Beer, director of

the Israeli human rights group Betselem, said his organisation found that the procedure had been used several times in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. "Soldiers have a full right protect themselves a

shoot and kill during battle." Mr. Beer said Monday. "From the moment the battle is over, they have to protect not notice Hamed was mising outside.

cover soldier Eli Isha, was The man fell. We went mistakenly killed by comrades who thought he was a Palestinian during a July 1992 raid in the West Bank. The elder Isha told the Maariv newspaper that an investigation showed his son was shot four times in the back and twice in the back of the head after he was already lying dead.

"My son didn't have a chance," he said. "If it wasn't for this practice, my son could very well still be alive." According to media re-

ports that began to leak out last week, the tactic was mistakenly employed against Hamed, a commander from the Druze minority on Dec. 19, in an Israeli-controlled zone in south Lebanon, the druse, a religious sect with roots in Islam, serve in the army and are generally loyal to the Jewish state.

wounded on the ground.

in the battle told the Kol Ha'ir weekly that while storming a building believed held by guerrillas, troops didsing and shot at a man stand-

close, a few soldiers, and saw that he was lying on his side," the soldier was quoted as saying. "One carried out the 'verifying the kill' procedure as we were taught in many exercises — to shoot a wounded guerrilla in the head to make sure he is

The battle continued in heavy fog and rain, and only later did the soldiers realise they had shot Hamed, their commander, Kol Ha'ir said. It was not clear when exactly Hamed died.

Last week, the army was reported to have withheld details of the incident from Hamed's family.

On Sunday, Communications Minister Shulamit Aloni of the liberal Meretz party demanded that army chief-ofstaff Amnon Shahak come clean about the procedure at Sunday's weekly cahiner meeting, Israel Radio said. General Shahak replied

that there was no such policy

and soldiers never shoot kno-

wingly at anyone who "does not pose a danger," the radio

"When the battle is over no soldier is permitted to shoot at an enemy who surrendersor does not cause a threat," echoed Captain Danny Seamans, an army

On Friday, Gen. Shahak appointed retired Gen. Moshe Levy, a former army chief of staff, to investigate the incident. But calls mounted Sunday to remove the inquiry from the army's hands and widen its scope.

"We believe the publications are true: the officer was killed by what is called in the army 'verifying the kill."
druze legislator Salah Tarif told a news conference. "I'm convinced that cover-up machine will now resume op-

He demanded that the army's northern commander. Major General Amiram Levine, in charge of banese pended, and that Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin appoint an investigator from outside the army.

Israel, PLO talk peace but remain apart

(Continued from page 1) bat all acts that aim to destroy the peace process, particularly acts of terrorism." the joint communique said.

They "agreed to support assistance to Palestinians and the development and strengthening of the Palestinian economy.'

The statement welcomed "the U.S. proposal to extend duty free treatment to products from the industrial zones to be created in the West Bank and Gaza."

The statement said that the parties had agreed to plans to strengthen the Palestinian economy and also welcomed a U.S. plan to create free trade zones in the Egyptian city of Taba, Eilat in Israel

and Agaba. The parties said little in the joint statement about the disagreement between Egypt and Israel over Israel's refusal to sign the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT). Israel has said that as long as it is surrounded by enemies, it will not foreswear any weaponty.

had promised not to build

any new settlements on the West Bank, confiscate land or use public funds to assist Jewish settlers in the terri-

torv. Mr. Christopher, summing up the day, said that "beyond the continued violence... there still lies the opportunity to secure what President Clinton once called a quie: miracle of a normal life.

Quoting Mr. Arafat, Mr. Clinton told the assembled ministers and other officials: We cannot allow (rising terrorism) to kill the Palestinian

dream. Mr. Clinton sat at the head of a long, polished table in the garden room of Blair House, the presidential guest quarters across Pennsylvania Avenue from the White

House. Attending the one-day conference were Mr. Peres, Amr Musa of Egypt, Abdul Karim Al Kabariti of Jordan and Dr. Shaath.

Mr. Christopher presided. with Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Viktor Posuvalvuk representing his government. To help give the meeting a high profile. Vice President

ity Adviser Anthony Lake joined in the opening. Meanwhile, İsraeli Industry Minister Micha Harish

Al Gore and National Secur-

and Palestinian Economics Minister Ahmad Qouriea announced plans to build a half-dozen industrial parks along the West Bank and Gaza borders. This will help provide some replacement iobs for Palestinians But, Mr. Clinton said, "we

are not going to let the peace process collapse. Today it is for us to begin to take the specific steps necessary to have the message of peace and renewed commitment carried out.

He urged all sides to take advantage of the accords Israel has signed with Egypt. Jordan and the PLO, suggesting they set up industrial free trade zones in the West Bank and Gaza. He pledged to support them by asking Congress to remove duties on imports from the zones.

I want to do our part. Mr. Clinton said. "We need to move as quickly as we can to prove there are economic benefits to peace."

Sawt Al Shaab suspended

Monday of a "conspiracy."

"The government is planning to liquidate the company through legal means and to sell its assets to a certain group through auction at a price not exceeding JD 600,000," she

Sultan Hattab, a former

chief editor of the paper who holds some shares in the company, said the government's decision was "unfair because liquidating the company would lead to losses of 980 shareholders from the private sector," which holds 33 per cent of

Chechen truce announced

(Continued from page 1) kilometres west of Grozny. Russian bombardments. The reported ceasefire

came amid reports of con-tinued shelling of Chechen villages southwest of Grozny Monday morning, the Interfax news agency said. The news agency also said

fighting continued in Grozny,

and that Chechen forces still controlled several districts in the southern part of the devastated capital, where Russia claims to have routed forces loyal to Mr. Dudayev. thousands of lives and forced

The war has claimed hundreds of thousands of Chechens from their homes. The Chechen capital has been largely destroyed and surrounding villages have capital been heavily damaged in attack.

In recent days, Russian forces have consolidated their grip on Grozny, although rebel forces continue to hold out in several pockets of resistance. The fighting has mostly spread to villages east and west of the capital. Interfax reported that the

Russian Army Monday shelled the village of Argun, 30 kilometres east of Grozny. The village has withstood weeks of pounding by Russian artillery.

The news agency said the villages of Alkhan-Kala and Alkhan-Yurt, about 10 kilometres southwest of the capital, also came under

Egyptians protest law

and engineers unions were meeting on Monday to discuss a possible strike or a protest march to the palace of President Hosni Mubarak. They also said negotiations were under way with members of parliament to repeal the law.

it up. Mr. Mubarak has often

said he will not allow religious parties. He has called the Brotherhood "terrorists" and has said Egypt will never become like Algeria, where thousands of people have been killed in a conflict between the army and militants.

The Brotherhood has been banned as a political group since 1954. Sadat released its leaders from prison in the early 70s, tolerating their activities in the hope of weakening leftist opposition.

The Brotherhood calls for establishment of a strict Islamic state in Egypt, but without the violence espoused by militant groups waging a bloody campaign to overthrow the government since

1992.

Mr. Christopher said Israel

Arabs seek united stand on (Continued from page 1) English-language daily Iran

News, Mr. Kharazi said he believed Israel would not be pressured into signing the "But whether or not Israel signs the treaty, the Third World, including Iran, are seriously considering not

agreeing to its unlimited extension," he said. Washington is urging signatories to renew the treaty indefinitely at a meeting due to be held in April instead of adopting it for another li-

mited period. The head of the Iranian Atomic Energy Organisation, Reza Amrollahi, hinted last week that Iran would continue to adhere to the

But he called for a "nuc-

treaty.

lear-free" Middle East and urged the NPT to be revised to require Israel to have its nuclear facilities inspected. Russia meanwhile rejected

U.S. criticism of its nuclear cooperation pact with Iran and implied it would continue to help Tehran build a nuclear power station. Responding to U.S. fears

that nuclear power plants in Iran could be used to manufacture plutonium for military purposes, Georgy Kaurov, spokesman for Russia's nuclear energy ministry. said Moscow would continue to help countries that complied with requirements set by the International Atomic

Non-Proliferation Treaty. Iran.

he said. "The position of the United States is incomprehensible. Russia said on Monday last

complete construction of the Bushehr nuclear power plant. which was started by Germany but stopped after the 1979 Islamic revolution. Mr. Kaurov said refusing help to certain countries that fulfilled international re-

quirements and helping

others could lead to a break-

down of international agree-

week that it would help Iran

ments on non-proliferation of nuclear weapons. In an interview on NBC television Sunday. White House Chief of Staff Leon Energy Agency.

"Russia is fulfilling all its obligations under the Nuclear not sell nuclear materials to

(Continued from page 12) headline in the liberal paper Al Wafd

The doctors, pharmacists

Strikes and marches are banned in Egypt under emergency laws passed after the assassination of President Anwar Sadaat in 1981. An attempt by lawyers to march on the palace last year ended in violence when police broke

The second secon

Yemen cracks down on merchants as economy slumps

SANAA (R) — Yemeni authorities have arrested all the country's wholesalers to stop prices from spiralling further.

an official newspaper said. Merchants said more than 150 people were arrested in the capital Sanaa since the crackdown was launched on Saturday. Hundreds more were arrested in other pro-

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"All wholesale merchants throughout the country were arrested on the orders from the prosecution in order to

TEHRAN (AFP) - Iran is

aiming to establish itself as an

indispensable partner in in-

ternational oil and gas pro-

jects in Central Asia and

Europe, but is hampered by financial and political prob-

Tehran, at the heart of the

world's richest region in hyd-

rocarburants, is seeking to

promote a vast network of

gas and oil pipelines - dub-

bed recently by an Iranian

daily "the pipelines of

It is also hoping to head off

potential competition from

foreign companies bidding

for lucrative oil and gas con-

tracts in the region, especially

Among the projects cur-

rently under study are gas

pipelines from Turkmenistan

to Europe, from Qatar to

Pakistan from Oman to In-

dia and from Iran to Armenia

— all with Iran at the centre.

baijan to Europe and from

Kazakhstan to Europe

through Iran are also being dis-

Tehran to levy high transit

OSLO (R) - Norway's oil

industry has announced plans

to cut costs by 40 to 50 per

cent by 1998 in order to

become more competitive

now that offshore reserves

Society said in a report that an estimated net 17 billion

crowns (\$2.6 billion) would

he saved in the next four

years if the cost reductions in

exploration, development

and production are carried

plying with this plan, Norway

can be an oil nation for many years to come. Energy

Minister Jens Stoltenberg

said on receiving the report.

the beginning of the end."

"If we don't succeed, this is

Norway struck oil in the

North Sea in the 1970s and is

now Europe's biggest oil pro-

ducer, pumping about 2.8

million barrels per day. The

output equals 16 per cent of

gross domestic product.

"If we succeed in com-

The Norwegian Petroleum

are dwindling.

These projects would allow

Oil pipelines from Azer-

the Americans.

cussed.

especially of food prices," the official 14 October newspaper said on Sunday. It did not say how many.

Yemenis say locally produced vegetables, meat and eggs have risen by 60 to 100 few weeks.

value on the foreign exchange markets.

stop price manipulation. down would help ease a long-

fees and use the network for

its own oil and gas exports.

producer of oil and possesses

the world's second biggest

gas reserves which remain largely unexploited but are

expected to replace oil as a main source of energy and

hard currency earnings in the

neighbouring countries, fore-

ign diplomats in Tehran said.

International has dubbed the

projects "the pipelines of

peace;" saying they could

facilitate the creation of a

climate of cooperation and

boost neighbourly principles

Tehran is also worried by the arrival of Western oil

companies, especially the

Americans, in the newly-in-

dependent countries of Cen-

tral Asia and the Caucasus.

where the Islamic republic

considers it has a strategic

passively watch foreigners extract oil from the Caspian,"

an Iranian official said earlier

this week in explaining

Tehran's present efforts to

enter a deal between Azer-

Huge oilfields such as

Statfjord have reached their

peak and the Scandinavian

state will this year probably

become the world's second

largest oil exporter after

But output at the big plat-

forms will decline in a few

years, facing Norway with a

challenge because new fields

under development are much

smaller and more difficult to

constantly becoming smal-

ler," Mr. Stoltenberg told re-

porters. "If we don't manage

to do things better and cheap-

er, all we can do is to harvest

the oil we have found and

then pack and leave. If we do

things better and cheaper we

natural gas finds but the re-

port said attitudes had be-

come more prudent after a

out the growth in European

period of great optimism ab-

Norway also has huge

can develop new finds."

"We know we are facing a

Saudi Arabia.

exploit.

"We cannot be content to

in the region.

interest.

The Iranian daily Kayhan

Iran is the fourth largest

standing economic crisis worsened by a two-month civil war last year and border tensions with neighbouring oil giant Saudi Arabia.

We are not responsible for the deterioration of the economic situation, inflation or pressure on the local currency," one merchant said.

Economists and diplomats estimate inflation at an annual 60 to 100 per cent. Unemployment is running at 30 per cent of the estimated workforce of four million. "The best the crackdown can achieve is to stop prices from further increasing ahead of Eid Al-Fitr." one diplomat said of the feast at the end of February marking the end of Ramadan.

The government held talks this year with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank, but diplomats said it did not seem to be acting on their recommendations.

The IMF was reported to have recommended unifying the two-tier exchange rate to 50-55 riyals per dollar, re-

riyals and a central banksanctioned free rate of 84 rivals. The rival trades at about 110-120 to the dollar on the illegal black market.

Yemeni officials in private accuse Riyadh of buying up hard currency in Yemen to weaken the rival and say subsidised goods are smuggled across Yemen's porous borders to Saudi Arabia.

One official said the Saudis wanted to worsen Yemen's economic problems to wrest concessions in the border

The accusations, which have also been made by opposition parties in Yemen, could not be confirmed independently.

President Ali Abdullah Saley said Saturday Yemen "faces a conspiracy targetting the national economy and aimed at forcing the Yemeni people to kneel through starving them."

Without referring to fronting the conspiracy.

Riyadh, he said the Yemeni nation was capable of con-Arab Gulf countries become key investors

ABU DHABI (AFP) - Gulf states have become the main investors in Arab industry as they strive to diversify their economies and minimise the impact of low oil prices, offi-

in Arab industry

cial figures have showed.

The six Gulf Cooperation
Council (GCC) states accounted for more than one third of total Arab investment in non-oil industries at the end of 1993, according to figures by the Abu Dhabibased Arab Monetary Fund (AMF) and the Gulf Organisation for Industrial Con-

sultancy (GOIC).

By the end of 1993, GCC countries had invested nearly \$19 billion in the non-oil industrial sector compared with a total Arab industrial invest-ment of \$53 billion, the fi-

gures showed. The figures did not include GCC investments in petrochemicals and other oilrelated products, which exceed \$15 billion.

"Investment in the industrial sector in the GCC picked up after oil prices began to decline in mid-1980s," a Gulf bank manager told AFP.

Industrial investment by GCC states - Saudi Arabia. Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) - did not exceed \$5 billion in 1975 and as most funds were pumped into the development of the

Increased investments

Saudi Arabia, the world's top oil producer and exporter, was the biggest Arab investor in the industrial sector, spending nearly \$11.1 billion

Despite the investments,

been seeking technology for such industries from their maion economic partners, Japan, the United States and the European Union, which have remained discouraged by the relatively small regional market and restrictions on foreign ownership in pro-

Romania targets \$1b trade with Syria

DAMASCUS (R) — Syria has many opportunities which Romania's private and public investors could use to boost business with the Arab country, Romania's Foreign Affairs Minister Teodor Viorel Melescanu said Monday.

"Syria comes in the second place of our trade partners in the region after Egypt. There is a big chance to take Syria to the first position if greater efforts were exerted," Mr. Melescanu told Reuters in Damascus after talks with Syrian leaders.

"The volume of our trade (with Syria) is currently around \$200 million (per year) but we believe there are all the elements which would allow us to increase it to over \$1 billion," he said.

Mr. Melescanu met President Hafez Al Assad Monday at the end of an official visit during which he signed an economic cooperation agreement and supervised the signing of a \$30 million electricity project.

The Romanian minister said he offered to set up joint ventures with the Syrian DIIvate sector to build a tractors assembly plant and a cement factory in Syria and that the "idea was welcomed by the Syrian side."

He said he also expressed Romania's desire to participate in bidding for the construction of a third oil refinery in Syria with a capacity of processing 60,000 barrels of crude oil per day (b/d).

Romania built Syria's

Banyas refinery, with a capacity of 120,000 b/d, in the late 1970s. It also built a cement factory near the northern city of Aleppo.

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Tourism Investment inent of the Social y Corporation plans to

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Mr. Melescanu said Romania's Industrial Export Company recently won \$60 to \$70 million project to increase the capacity of Syria's Jbeisa gas treatment plant.

He said cooperation between the Syrian and Romanian private sectors was increasing rapidly especially after the Romanian revolution

"Believe it or not about 4,000 Syrian private companies are operating now in Romania. Most of these are engaged in trade and services activities," he said.

Mr. Melescanu said he was leaving to Lebanon later in the day to discuss with Lebanese leaders what share Romanian companies could have in the country's multibillion-dollar reconstruction programme.

He said the visit would be in reply to one by Lebanon's Prime Minister Rafik Al Hariri to Romania at the end of last year during which the reconstruction issue was dis-

"We intend to prepare for participation of Romanian companies in the reconstruction programme in Lebanon. We discussed a lot of concrete possibilities during Mr. Hariri's visit to Romania and we will now follow up this issue," he said.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY FEBRUARY 14, 1995 By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Improve property, then get advice from an expert for that monetary problem you've been thinking about. Show your admiration for this person. Use your energy wisely

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Although recreation is on your mind now, plan some time for an important business matters as well. Do whatever will add to your personal charm.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Contact experts for information on how you can commercialise talents. Evening will be good for romance. Try not to be too extravagant. MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) A dynamic friend will

gladly go along with your ideas, provided you are willing to listen to advice offered. Being social and making new friends will be an asset to you in the future. LEO: (July 22 to August 21) If you do efficient work today, you make the right impression and big-wigs and can increase benefits. Do some important civic work this evening.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You will have a change of plans this morning, but by going out socially you find you get excellent ideas form person you meet that you can put into operation to your immediate benefit.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Plan some time for that hobby that pleases yourself and your kin. Put in a full day's work first though for your success.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Come to a better agreement with associates in business or otherwise. You are able to reconcile with an estranged one if things go as you expect them to

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Get busy on whatever is of a practical financial nature and make big strides. Consult with one who is an expert this evening in such matters and

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Forget all the folderol and busy yourself with the bustling world of activity and make real progress there. Set up your appointments early.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Analyse the situation at home thoroughly and then do whatever increases harmony and prosperity. Study that new interest well proceed with caution this

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You have to make certain contacts first before you can come to a perfect understanding with associates. Outline some new modus operandi with persons who could be vital to your success.

Birthstone of February: Amethyst - Onyx

THE Daily Crossword by Manny Miller 1 Garment strip 5 Stadium feature 9 — iron 14 Bluist green 15 Come — (enter) 16 Dencer Shearer 17 Daylight 20 Bakary item 21 Tot's toy 22 Heredistry unit 23 West African country country 24 Liquid measure 26 Deranged 29 Long-handled hammers 31 — Flanders 33 Refrain syllable 36 Needless delay 40 Proverb 41 Euphone states 42 Fox over 43 Lahr and Convy 50 Dressed 51 On land Puzzte solver

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msultation and coopwith Jordan in the ce (Al Ra'i). Jordanian Businessociation started prein, France and De-

ween March 28 and 1995 to enhance ties with the busi-ganisations in those (Al Ra'i).

per cent in price over the past The price of imported goods has shot up as Yemen's currency continues to lose

Merchants and diplomats said they doubted the crack-

Iran aims to be energy cross-roads to Central Asia and Europe

> shore oil fields in the Caspian The most spectacular project under consideration is a pipeline to transfer Turkmen natural gas to Europe via Iran and Turkey by the end of this century.

consortium to develop off-

Iranian officials have vastly published the \$9 billion project and held an official inauguration ceremony here last year: but it is far from being realised, according to West-

ern experts. Ways of financing the project remain unresolved and studies have not yet worked out the details of the route, the experts said raising doubts about Iran's ability to pay around \$3.5 billion for its share of the construction costs.

Iran is currently facing a financial crisis and difficulty in attracting foreign investment for domestic projects. A proposed pipeline to ship Iranian natural gas to Pakistan is also uncertain. A preliminary agreement has

been signed between the two

countries, but the financing

Known as Norsok for its

Norwegian acronymes, the

report was initiated in 1993 to

improve efficiency on Nor-

way's continental shelf amid

tougher competition from the British North Sea sector and

the U.S. continental shelf in

The report outlined ways

of streamlining cooperation be-

tween suppliers and oper-

ators, introducing common

of company-specific solutions as well as slashing administra-

"We can realistically ex-

pect to achieve the Norsok

goals of a 40-50 per cent

reduction in lead time and

costs (from the 1993 level) by the target date of 1998," it

The compiler of the report,

Thorleif Enger of Norsk

Hydro A/S, said the govern-

ment's share of the savings

would be 85 to 90 per cent

technical standards in place

the Gulf of Mexico.

tion and red tape.

demand for natural gas.

out pending the formation of an international consortium. Joint projects with Central Asia to build oil pipelines are more realistic as they are less costly, but face political hur-Countries like Kazakhstan

estimated at \$3.5 to \$4

billion -- is still to be worked

remain wary of Iran's intentions, and the United States like Russia, which is involved in most of the oil projects in Central Asia, are opposed to route through Iran. Washington is against it for

political reasons and Moscow for economic, preferring the crude to be transported through its own territory.

Iran is unlikely to secure a share in transporting Kazakh oil and possibly that from Azerbaijan, despite having put pressure on Baku, the experts said. "Financial difficulties

along with the wide-ranging distrust of Iran makes the success of the Tehran's 'pipeline diplomacy' pursued in the past two years far from certain," a European diplomat said

Norway to slash oil costs by 40-50% by because of high marginal taxes and the government's economic involvement in the

> Industry has already started cutting costs, but "if the industry's share of the savings were higher, the incentives to save would also be higher." he added.

Norwegian oil industry.

\$9 billion by the end of 1980

"The industrial sector is now one of key sectors after it was negligible 15 years ago. I think the focus will be on such a sector in future due to low oil prices," he said.

oil sector.

pushed up the industrial sector's contribution to the gross domestic product (GDP) from around 4.5 per cent in 1980 to 8.1 per cent in 1990 and 9.1 per cent in 1993, according to the figures.

A breakdown showed by the end of 1993.

investment stood at \$2.9 billin in the UAE, at \$1.9 billion in Kuwait, \$803 million in Qatar, \$684 million in Bahaina and around \$502 million in Oman.

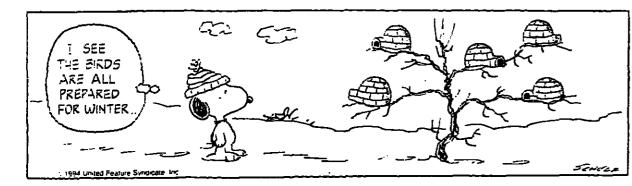
GOIC figures estimated GCC industrial exports at around \$9 billion in 1993, covering mostly chemicals. paper, cement and other building materials, spare parts, clothes and textile,

food and home appliances. oil still provides more than 80 per cent of the GCC's income because of the lack of heavy

industry, experts said.
But GCC nations have

Take Your Valentine To: Valentino For Reservations. please call 645205

Peanuts



I/D LOVE

Andy Capp





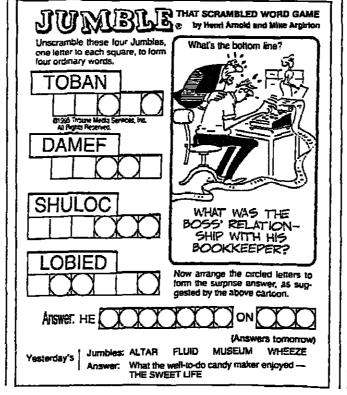








"It's a donor card. When I die, I'm going to leave all my charm and personality to a dull person!"



THE BETTER HALF, By Glasbergen

Banyas refinery, with capacity of 120,000 bid in cement factory of Aleppo usiness **Q**aily Mr. Melescanu said Responder recently won 500 lyr eat

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million project to the capacity of Syria's he gas treatment plant.

A review of economic news from the Arabic press

He said cooperation the Synan and Ros nian private sectors was Arab Bank creasing rapidly especials in 1989 employees Believe it or not six demand pay cames are operating for the engaged in trade and sente he said. Mr. Meleycanu saidhee benefits

estring to Lebanon late.

The day to discuss in the Arab Bank employees expenses leaders when submitted a memorandum to demanding Arab Bank employees companies of the management demanding the country's be adjustments to their salaries and other benefits. The degramme reconstruction and other benefits. The demands were presented and the said the management failed to the reply to one by Letan; 1993 to consider some of Harri to Romania arch; these demands in 1994. The mands were presented after Romania arther memorandum was signed by the construction seems to the 1,600 employees out the state of 1,500 staff employed by the

bank (Al Dustour).

We intend to prove According to sources at participation of Re, the Ministry of Transport, a mean companies in the acceptance will be taken shortly of the programs of transportation fares uction programme to amend transportation fares We discussed in small cabs, or service cars. The move will be the first The move will be the step towards revising fares on all public transportation up this issue, her means throughout the Kingdom. Based on a special study, prepared by specialised technical committees, the sources expect that trans-SDAY FEBRUARY 14, 1995 portation fares in service cabs will be raised by 10 to 30 fils on routes within the Amman area. Fares on routes from Amman to the governorates and nearby cities will be inand nearby class will service creased by 30 to 50 fils. Service cab fares have not been amended since 1985 when they were slightly increased they were slightly increased

☆☆ The general assembly of the Unified Company for Organising Land Transport A Constant field of will hold an ordinary meeting 200 July 10 March 10 on Feb. 26, 1995 to discuss the company's operations during 1994. The balance theet shows that the JD 5 of a wind and man increase benefit. million capital company earned JD 1.4 million last abaa 🗓 💎 🗆 wali haye a change. year and spent JD 535,600 in administrative and general expenses. As such, operating profit amounted to JD 828,200. The company is expected to distribute JD 500,000 in dividends, or November 21 Come to a KZ 10 per cent (Al Aswaq).

the second service as you expect that xx According to statistics issued by the Ministry of In-Jaco Docember 211 Gelbege dustry and Trade a total of make big size 140 companies with a JD 21.4 million capital were registered at the ministry in De-Forget all the toler cember 1994, compared to 165 companies with JD 28.4 million capital in December ------ Analyse the studies 1993. The number of comharmon & panies which were dissolved with commit in December 1994 was 70 with a JD 582,900 in capital. inderstanding signature with persons of Foreign investments by five companies during the last month of 1994 totalled JD 450,000 (Al Aswaq).

> ** The Cities and Villages Development Bank made a JD3 million profit last year. In 1994, the bank extended JD7.6 million in loans to 80 municipal councils and 36 village councils; 47 per cent of the loans were to open and asphalt roads, 10 per cent for productive projects and 24 per cent for rescheduling instalments and interests that were due. The rest of the loans were spent on buying equipment, construct-ing public buildings and compensating people for appropriations of their land (Al

> * The Tourism Investment Department of the Social Security Corporation plans to expand and modernise its hotels and resthouses this year for a total cost of JD 4.5 million. The department is also conducting technical and .economic studies to set up a health spa in the Dead Seaarea (Al Ra'i).

☆☆ The governor of the Palestinian Monetary Authority said that any move to issue a Palestinian currency in the future will be carried out inconsultation and cooperation with Jordan in the first place (A) Ra'i).

** The Jordanian Businesssen Association started pre-arations for a delegation to risit Spain, France and Demark between March 28 and April 8, 1995, to enhance rusiness ties with the busiess organisations in those ountries (Al Ra'i).

Lull on Beirut foreign exchange market, dealers say

BEIRUT (R) — Dealers re- contraction of activity followported a continued full on the Beirut foreign exchange market Monday and said the inflow of capital to Lebanon was slowing.

There are still no fresh amounts coming in from outside to the market. There are many reasons, political and economic," said Talal Abou Zaki, foreign exchange manager at Bank of Beirut and the Arab Countries.

Newspapers also reported a slowdown on the market and in the movement of

capital.
The Beirut French-language daily L'Orient-Le Jour said in its weekly market report that the political situation was making the market hesitant and uncertain despite rising local interest

Jordan Times

Cairo Amman Bank

5.2585

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4.75 4.81

5.43 3.68

5.35 5.56

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USD/Oz JD/Gm Metal LISD/Oz JD/Gm

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LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the

dollar at midsession on the London Foreign Exchange and

1.5178/88

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Japanese Yen*

Dutch Guilder

Swedish Kronz

Kalba Lira≠

Belgian Franc

Other Currencies

Bahrebsi Dina

Lebonere Lira*

Saudi Riyal

Kuwaiti Dinar

Qalari Riyal

Omazi Riyal

UAE Dirham

Egyption Pound

Greek Drachma

Cyprict Pound

One sterling

bullion markets Monday.

U.S. \$1.00 costs 1.4022/32

One ounce of gold \$375.60/375.90

French Franc

European Curreny Unit

ing on a net slowdown of capital movement towards Lebanon" the newspaper

But central bank officials told Reuters there are indications the flow of investment capital is still strong. A \$30 million balance of

payments surplus in December, despite a slowdown in the economy and a political crisis caused by Prime Minister Rafik Al Hariri's attempted resignation, showed that capital is still coming in, they

surplus) is that capital inflow for investment is still strong." bank official said. December balance of payments figures are the latest available. January figures will

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Canadian dollar

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Dutch guilders

Swiss francs

Belgian francs

French francs

Italian lire

Japanese yen

Danish crowns

Swedish crowns

Norwegian crowns

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Date: 13/2/1995

be ready near the end of this

technology-based development in Jordan

By P.V. Vivekanand Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN - Sweeping changes in the "tradeoriented" attitude of the government and businesses are most essential if Jordan is to benefit from efficient use of technology to develop its economic base, a seminar on the Kingdom's economy heard Monday.

Laith Al Qasem, general manager of Jordan Technology Group, also warned that unless Jordan moved quickly to adapt itself to the requirements of technology-oriented development then the Kingdom would end up as a mere source of skilled and unskil-

led labour.

the concept of research and development among Jordanian industries was far below the desired level and a majority of Jordanian businesses were reluctant to commit funds to developing own technologies.

Addressing the seminar, entitled "Jordan and the World" and organised by Economic Perspectives, a local newsletter, under the patronage of the Jordan Trade Association, Mr. Qasem cautioned, however, that technology transfer was not the panacea for Jordan's economic advancement.

Technology transfer, if adopted and applied in the proper manner, could help Jordanian businesses, but the approach has to be strategically designed with the objective of using technology to develop own potential rather than be content with the level of foreign knowhow, Mr. Oasem said.

Over the decades, the government and a large segment of the private sector have become "trade-oriented profits rather than technologybased development," he said. Both sides tend to overlook long-term benefits of research and development and favour short-term monetary gains while considering business expansion, he asserted.

Mr. Qasem also cited bureaucrary, shortcoming in the taxation structure, lack of incentives and customs clearance procedures as some of the key obstacles that dissnade research and development among Jordanian indus-

"Our people — in the government as well as the private sector - have been used to the trade-oriented mindset for the past 50 years," he said. "This has to change. If it does not change Jordan will end up like some of the Asian countries which send their

unskilled and skilled labour

outside, with little to show in

terms of local technology

Mr. Qasem argued that the flow of Arab assistance to Jordan in the 70s and 80s had largely "disassociated the government" from the local economy acted as a dissuading factor against focusing on technology develop-ment on the local level. This

mentality largely explains not only the lack of government encouragement or incentives for local research but also the bureaucratic and procedural problems that a potential researcher faces. The situation is slowly

changing but it is taking its own time. The process of change is not of a level that is required at this stage when Jordan stands in need of innovative approaches and strategies.

The basic principle while studying any aspect of tech-nology transfer, Mr. Qasem told the gathering, should be the realisation and appeciation of the fact that "raw materials are a depletable resource while technology is

He noted that the United States, one of the world leaders in industry today, started off with importing products and developing the products with research and technology derived from "reverse process technology" - starting with the product and going back to its production technology and origins.

an example on the other end. The country has been producing the same type and style of Fiat cars for the past 30 years and has not introduced any technological improvement of its own in the vehicle. As a result, Egyptian-made Fiat cars "are useless as an export item," he

noted. In the case of Jordan, Mr. Oasem noted that most of the Kingdom's industries are producing consumer products under licensing agreements with foreign companies so that they have a cost advantage, but are doing little to introduce their own improved products based on own technology.

Mr. Qasem agreed that public sector entities like the Royal Scientific Society And the Higher Council for Science and Technology could help local industries in research and development. But, he said, the level of technology and research facilities available with these bodies has yet to be determined.

Turning to Israel, he said the country spent billions of dollars in research and development and benefited from it. Developing the Lavi fighter was an example, he said. Israel spent about \$1.3 billion on the project, which never took off, but it managed to sell up to \$3 billion worth of electronic and related products which used technology derived while developing the fighter jet itself.

"Our focus is wrong," he said. "The import-oriented mindset - which gives you no reason to consider technoiogy-based development - should change. Import trade makes short term gains, but the gains from development based on technology in the long term are much Mr. Qasem cited Egypt as

London cocoa prices rise on squeeze fears

LONDON (R) - Fears that there might be a shortage of good-quality physical cocoa in March pushed prices higher Monday, traders said.

The March cocoa futures contract rose some £14 (\$21.89) on the London Commodity Exchange to £1,020 (\$1,595) a tonne. This meant that the March

contract was now at a £4 (\$6.26) premium over the benchmark May futures contract from around parity to a premium of £1 (\$1.56) in recent weeks.

Some traders said they suspected a U.S. trade house was buying March contracts aggressively in order to test

March has been buoyant since the expiry of the December contract which traded the next month because of a lack of tenderable cocoa to meet long futures contracts.

Since then traders have feared that a similar situation might develop when the March contract expires.

Change of mindset most essential for

Mr. Qasem lamented that

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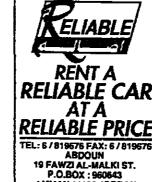
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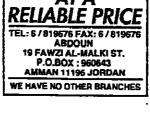


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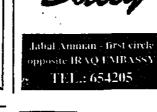


















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was missing was a goal.
World Cup hero Romario finally debuted Sunday in an official Rio league game for Flamengo before an estimated crowd of more than 99,000 screaming fans at fabled Maracana Stadium. But the 1994 FIFA Player of the Year failed to score as Flamengo and arch-rival Flu-

minense battled to a 0-0 "I didn't get my goal yet." Romario said. "But what's important is that the stadium was full and the game was a cliff-hanger. Fans got their money's worth.' Fluminense, despite play-

ing without injured star Renato Gaucho, was the faster. more offensive team, and came closest to scoring when Lyra's free kick bounced off the crossbar shortly before Flamengo played better in

the second half but had difficulty getting the ball to

For Romario, it was a melodramatic climax to a controversial week. In different incidents,

Romario was accused of attacking a photographer outside a hotel, a woman inside a restaurant, and a 10 year-old beach peanut vendor. His imported car was rammed outside a Copacabana beach hotel.

A Barcelona woman threatened to name him in a paternity suit, and Monica Santoro, his wife and mother of his 2 children, filed for divorce, freezing his bank

Three weeks ago. Romario said he needed time to recover from the stress of Brazil's World Cup championship and his \$4.5 million transfer

its seventh month on Sunday

with owners and players still

locked in bitter opposition.

Even the personal in-

tervention of President Bill

Clinton, and the efforts of

renowned labour mediator

William Usery, failed to

produce any progress, leav-

ing fans and the millions of

people whose livelihoods de-

pend on the game dangling as

the scheduled start of the

After both parties failed to

reach a compromise in meet-

ings at the White House on

Tuesday, Clinton proposed

legislation that would force

them to submit to binding

Republican congressional

arbitration.

1995 season approaches.

half-year mark

Baseball strike passes

WASHINGTON (AFP) - leaders have indicated they

The baseball strike entered have no interest in passing



LILLEHAMMER (AP) -

All that was missing this weekend were the Olympic

athletes. But even a few of

Olympics opened in Lille-

hammer on Feb. 12, 1994,

the small south Norway town

was once again decked out in

at times with happy hordes-

out to recapture the spirit of

the town full of life in the

streets. It's real Olympic spir-

it," Trond Anderson, 49, said

kilometre trek from Oslo so

he could trade Olympic pins,

The Olympic banners were

back and Olympic music

blared along snow-covered Storgaten, Lillehammer's

long pedestrian street.
Olympic-style torches

burned outside the 19th cen-

tury wooden buildings and up

at the Lillehammer Olympic

08:30 till 16:00

Friday and Saturday off.

as he did last year.

"It's wonderful to the see

One year after the Winter

them turned up.

on Sunday as Romario played his first official

House Speaker Newt

Gingrich came up with

another plan - sending both

sides off to watch the 1989

feel-good flick "Field of

Dreams." in which an lowa

farmer turns a cornfield into

a baseball diamond for a

team of ghost players from

August 12 in opposition to owners' demands for salary

Players went on strike on

In the six months since

then, neither side has given

ground though players have lost about \$230 million in

income and owners have lost

betwen \$500 and \$600 million

the past.

limits.

in revenue.

its Olympic finery and filled , some say it's time for Norway

to come to grips with the

passing of its Olympics, a

national obsession in this

Winter-sports crazy country

Tove Lehre, a left-wing

Council. "I think it's fine to

have this one-year-after

celebration, but I am scared

to death that Lillehammer is

going to become an Olympic

cliche if we celebrate year

Gerhard Heiberg, the for-mer president of the Lille-

hammer Olympic organising

"I think we should have a

committee disagreed.

"The party is over" said

of 4.3 million people.

nemper

after year.

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|Kiptanui | smashes world record

GHENT, Belgium (R) — Kenyan Moses Kiptanui scorched to a world 3,000 metres indoor record Sunday — and then said he planned to break it again before attacking three outdoor records later

this year. Kiptanui clocked seven minutes 35.15 seconds , beating by 2.16 seconds his own old record, set in Seville in February 1992.

"I didn't expect to run as fast as this. It's only my second race (of the season) and I thought it would be too early. It came as a surprise," said Kiptanui.

"I've been mainly training on endurance... cross-country (races) only.

But Sunday's record had made the rest of the year look very promising.

The Kenyan plans attacks on the 3,000 and 5,000 metres outdoor marks and will also try to break the eight minutes barrier in the 3,000 metres steeplechase, a record he himself holds at 8:02.08.

But his next goal is to shave his 3,000 world indoor mark again.

In the women's 60 metres, world record holder Irina Privalova clocked 6.97 seconds - 0.05 outside her world record.

Russian Privalova, the world 200 metres indoor champion and European 100 and 200 metres title holder, was pushed to the line by Jamaican Merlene Ottey, who finished 0.08 seconds behind in second place.

Hundreds of people to celebrate the great success of the games," said Heiberg. volunteer workers at the

mer's Olympic venues are running at a 10 million kroner (\$1.5 million) annual deficit, a majority of those asked in Lillehammer say the games were such fun that they want

we could have them every year," said Odd Teigen, 49. in the official park he wore a year ago as a volunteer security guard for the games.

cent of those asked in Lillehammer said the Olympics were a huge success. "I think we should apply

1994 Tricure Media Services ins

Neither vulnerable. South deals.

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The bidding:
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Opening lead: King of T Here's another chance for you to

isplay your declarer technique. As-ime you have reached four spades

on the auction shown and West at

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in the far future," said Heiberg.

Olympics spirit returns to Lillehammer

games - donned their offiin town to join the fun. cial Olympic parks and Even though Lillehamsnow-pants for the weekend. Olympic pin traders set up their stands again, and folk dancers were taking a turn in Despite all the celebrating,

> to do it again.. . . . : . . : "As far as I'm concerned,

again, but it would have to be Wimbledon finalist, is also in

GOREN BRIDGE

TEST YOUR PLAY

Graf must live with pain

Maleeva, Becker, Ferreira win titt

PARIS (Agencies) — Steffi Graf, who has not played for 12 weeks, plays her first match at the Paris Open this week knowing she is carrying an injury that is likely to stay with her for the rest of her career.

"This is something I just have to live with," she said of the bone spur growth in her lower back which forced her to miss last month's Australian Open.

I've seen lots of specialists and the only real answer is to have an operation," she added. "But that would mean being out of tennis for six to eight months and even then it wouldn't be 100 per cent sure

Graf, whose last match in November ended in defeat at the Virginia Slims Championships when she was beaten in straight-sets by world number-three Mary Pierce in the quarter-finals, said she had no immediate intention of changing her scheduled for the rest of the

"I shall take it one tournament at a time," said the

Asked to comment on Ivan Lendl's retirement from tennis at the start of the season because of severe back pain and a warning from doctors that he risked permament injury if he played on, Graf said that her own case was to the year.'

"My back is as bad as it can et. I have got myself into the best shape possible and I cannot damage it any more

by playing."
Spain's Aranxta Sanchez, beaten by Pierce in the Australian Open final in January, has taken over the number-one world ranking in Graf's absence. "I can't expect to be world

number-one without playing player to earn \$1 million in a tournaments — and I've only played one tournament in five months," said Graf. "I was in Florida until mid-January and since then I've

been in Germany. I've been trying to get fit," she ex-Graf, who is seeded to play Pierce in the final and who is scheduled to open her campaign in the French capital on Wednesday, was dealt no favours at the 32-player draw

at the Coubertin Stadium on Monday. Inher first match she will play either Larissa Neiland of the Ukraine or Russian Elena Makarova and she could then find herself up against either the experienced Katerina Maleeva of Bulgaria or Swiss teenage prodigy Martina

Jana Novotna, the 1993

mond finesse. Although ostensib

only a 50 percent chance. West's takeout double improves the

chances of the finesse succeeding.

As the cards lie, however, the queen of diamonds is offside, so again the contract fails.

contract fails.

Other options involve an endplay. You might try ruffing the third heart, drawing trumps in two rounds, cashing the ace of diamonds and then ruffing the last heart. Now cash the king of diamonds and ruff a diamond, then lead a club to the eight. West can win, but is trapped in the endulay linfortunety. Fast

in the endplay. Unfortunately, East can foil this plan by inserting the ten of clubs, allowing West to overtake the queen with the king and return the jack.

A slightly different endplay guarantees the contract because West is marked with four hearts on the auc-

passing game. It was only the second time Raymond, who turned professional in May 1993, has reached a final. She lost to Lindsay Davenport in the 1994 Lucerence Tournament. In that event, Raymond beat



Bulgaria's Magdalena Maleeva returns a volley during Ameritech Cup (AFP photo)

Graf's half of the draw. "Referring to Mary Pierce's Australian Open victory, Graf said: "I didn't see any of the matches in Australia - I just saw the results. But she must have played an incredible tournament. She's certainly made a perfect start

Maleeva wins Chicago final

Third-seed Magdalena Maleeva, a last- minute entry, defeated Lisa Raymond 7-5 7-6 (7-2) Sunday to win the \$430,000 Ameritech Cup. The \$79,000 first prize made the Bulgarian the 62nd woman professional tennis

Raymond, who beat three seeded players to reach the final, picked up her biggest paycheck ever, and will move up to a career-high 34th in

the rankings.
"Maggie's tough." Raymond said. 'She obviously came into the match with a lot of confi-dence after beating Gaby (Bagriela Sabatini) yesterday (in the semifinals). I just

didn't have it in me today." This was the third time in her last five events that Maleeva, 19, has reached the final. However, it was her first tour win since Zurich last

Maleeva totalled eight aces, compared to two by Raymond, but won only four points of 16 (25 per cent) at the net as she relied on her

two seeded players to advance.

Becker captures Marsen tournament

Boris Becker won his 432 pro title of his career Sundan bearing Czech Daniel Vace 6-7 (2-7), 6-4, 7-5 in the fin of the \$506,000 Marsell Open tennis tournament "I've never played bene tennis than at the moment Becker said after his victor

You have to take advants of chances when they prese themselves — and that's car actly what I'm doing. It's that Becker was ousted in the

first round of the Australian Open last mouth by Patrick McEnroe but earlier had? made the final of the ATP Tour world championships losing to Pete Sampras in

Vacek seeded seventif, had lost in his only other career final in Copenhagen, Denmark last year. "I didn't feel any presure all week, Becker said Ey

erything was totally relaxed?

Ferreira wins Dubai Open

South Afica's Wayne Ferreira, the world No. 12, wonthe \$1 . million Dubai Open title Sunday by beating Italian giant-killer Andrea

Winning most of his points on his powerful forehand, the South African met little resistance from Gaudenzi, who had won surprise victories over No. 2 seed Goran Ivanisevic of Croatia and No. 63 seed Petr Korda of the Czech Republic in the earlier. rounds.

Dropping his serve in the opening game of the first set. Gaudenzi set about salvaging some of his points against Ferreira, who was in a belligerent mood throughout the



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marked with four hearts on the auc-tion. Ruff the third heart, draw trumps, then cash the ace and king of diamonds and ruff a diamond. Now lead the table's last heart and discard a club from hand. tacks with three rounds of hearts. How do you proceed. Your problem is to avoid losing West can win, but must then re-turn a club into your major tenace or wo club tricks. One way would be to else lead a diamond, allowing you to ruff on the board while discarding the queen of clubs. Either way, the rates to have the king, that line hould be rejected. Better is the dia-_DELUXE FURNISHED APARTMENT. Consisting of 3 bedrooms and utilities with separate central heating and telephone located in Shmeisani district, last uphill road from the Plastic Company, Abu Sulian Street, building number 22, opposite Cybal Florist 250 metres west of the Marriott Hotel. Call Tel.: 651833 in the morning and

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Blair sets new world record

date: world champion speed-date: Bonnie Blair set a new date: Bonnie Blair set a new date: Bonnie Blair set a new date: Blair set a Canadian Susan Auch. to beat Blair in their last

no neetings — Saturday in the control of the contro cappay and reso man two seeks ago in Innsbruck — also beat Blair's old world less of 38,995ccs. But the record stays with American who clocked

the American who clocked allowes in a head-to-head allowes in Auch who was use with Auch who was They are the only two the ever to have broken

ie 39sec barrier. Souday's double break of he record Blair set here last REI 18 00 secs. Was thanks par 36.50 sees, was thanks and to the fact that the property world leaders were paired against each other.
Bair admitted after the Being paired with Seen was a big help to me. The ice felt good and it seemed like it gave back to

Auch was far from disprimed at failing to get a and straight win over the orld champion. "I expected her to come ack," said Auch, who heat Mair in another World Cup Mm race Saturday with a

dont-lived Canadian record "She brought out the best g me. I was pretty stressed about the race, but I skate a in better when I'm press-Blair's previous world re-

and was set at the same rink ine in Calgary last year.

Doubts rema

ARIS (AFP) — Italian foot-I resumed Sunday with a If for fans to unite against sence two weeks after the thing of a Genou supporter. served a one minute's stæ to mark the death of a sporter shot dead after an meur match in the Paris Diurbs the previous

Abs. a was not always dear that the lanti-violence messages were getting

in France, where all amager matches in the Paris a recalled off, the one minute's silence at profesaonal games was often spoiled. At Metz it was funed into a shouting contest when heal fans responded to n partisan chanting hais. Germain supporan aid at Lyon a section of at awad used the moment

) 🗐 racist slogans. There was plenty of vioon the pitch as well. Alouer division game bein Endoume and Ajaccio to be simpped for a quaran-hour after all 22 ers, despite wearing am hands in memory had Atou who was h shot leaving the Dranlium to the north of the indulged in a free-

Four players were sent off. In Italy, where all sport suspended the previous because of the stab-Vicenzo Spagnolo bethe AC Milan versus office clash, lans across the suntry stayed away as capiains addressed an lence message to

lecentes fans waved antioligan banners as their side et Ban 2-0 to stay on top of Alexandro Del Piero, the international. from the penalty spot

40th minute after a adhall by Brazilian Gerson Ciro Ferrara put the beyond doubt with a Both Sides finished with men after Robert Jarni Amendentus and Bari's Mangone were who have 42

from 19 games, retain three point lead over who heat Padova 1-0. franco Zola scored in Manual Minute after Parma ranged hard to unlock the defence in the league Fals in 161 als in 19 games.
SRoma moved into third inter Milan 3-1. Argentiinternational Abel Balbo all the Roma's goals. oing in the fourth minute Almo free-kick, then canlaliser har Andrea Seno's

hat-trick in the 71st mi-Another Argentina striker.

Solid Batistuta, took his

reira win tity Blair sets new world record

CALGARY (AFP) --- Amerca's world champion speedkater Bonnie Blair set a new world record for 500m here Sunday, defeating her closest rival in the fastest women's ace of all time.

Canadian Susan Auch, who beat Blair in their last two meetings — Saturday in Calgary and less than two weeks ago in Innsbruck -also beat Blair's old world best of 38.99secs.

But the record stays with he American who clocked 38.69secs in a head-to-head race with Auch who was imed at 38.94.

They are the only two women ever to have broken the 39sec barrier.

Sunday's double break of the record Blair set here last year, 38.99 secs, was thanks largely to the fact that the two world leaders were paired against each other. Blair admitted after the race: "Being paired with

Seemes seemes well."

Tournal Mar me as well." seemed like it gave back to tournament

Auch was far from dis-Boris Becker won ker third straight win over the Taking Czech Daniel, world champion.

Czech Danel I expected her to come 1. 0-1. 7-5 m/h back," said Auch, who beat 5506.000 Mg. back," said Auch, who can tennis tourname 500m race Saturday with a never many said Sounday with a said Sounday w never plane 500m race Saturday record than at the more of 39.15secs. == : c: said after his ic.

have to take the in me. I was pretty stressed "She brought out the best in me. I was pretty successions when therms about the race, but I skate a state in death lot better when I'm presswhat I'm doing ! ured."

Blair's previous world re-Blan's previous works cord was set at the same rink und of the Are here in Calgary last year.

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Swedish Kenneth Eriksson puts his Subaru through snowy landscape during the Swedish

Gentleman Makinen gifts Swedish Rally title to Eriksson

KARLSTAD, Sweden (AFP) - Local boy Kenneth Eriksson was gifted the Swedish Rally here on Sunday by 'gentleman' teammate Tommi Makinen.

Makinen, leading by 43secs going into the final special stage, suddenly pulled over his Mitsubishi Lancer with just 500m to go from the finish, allowing Eriksson to storm past to victory.

It was later revealed the two had made a gentlemen's agreement that whoever was leading on Saturday should be allowed to win the entire

That honour fell to the 39-year-old Eriksson, who then had to drive first over the snow-covered course on Sunday morning, costing him precious time.

Fionn Makinen, however, kept his word, allowing Eriksson to win by 12 seconds and finish with a time of

4h51:27. Thomas Radstrom of Sweden, in a Toyota Celica, came third, 1min. 7sec. behind the winner.

Makinen had the consolation of taking the lead in the World Championship standings after two events, with 25. points to compatriot Juha Kankkunen's 22 in his Toyota. Carlos Sainz of Spain is level with Eriksson in third on 20.

Eriksson and Makinen, helped by their local expertise of driving on snow, dominated the event from the

The next World Cup event takes place in Portugal between 8-10 March. Eriksson said: "Obviously

I'm happy with my victory but I'm sorry that it had to end like that. I would have preferred to fight it out to the end with Tommi "I understand the importcars to the finish in the first two places without damaging

Makinen said: "I stoped at 500 metres from the end not because I was angry but simpbecause I cannot drive slowly in the special stages. I'd be frightened to lose concentration.

"I'm paid by Mitsubishi and if I'm asked to sacrifice first place, then it's because it was necessary for the firm." Andy Cowan, the team's

sporting director, explained: I took the decision on Sunday morning, seeing the bad weather conditions, that Eriksson, who was leading, should win.

"I told them over breakfast and I think it was a logical decision. Since we got a onetwo, our Japanese directors may give us the green light to run two cars in the Portu-

Chinese swimmers excluded from Pan Pacific Championships

HONOLULU (Agencies) - China became the first country to be excluded from a major sporting event for drug use when the Pan Pacific Swimming Association decided here to bar them from this year's championships. "We're tired of competing against Chinese who are cheating," Harold Cliff, director of Swimming Canada,

said Sunday. Australia and Canada backed the United States resolution but Japan voted against the ban.

Seven Chinese swimmers, including world champions Yang Aihua and Lu Bin, tested positive for DHT, dehydrotestosterone, 21 the Asian Games in Hiroshima last October.

China's 12 out of 16 women gold medals and five world records at last year's world championships in Rome sparked off allegations of East German-type drug use but the Chinese authorities have repeatedly denied there is any systematic drug-taking.

The PPSA said the suspension would enable the Chinese to clean up the sport under the guidance of the International Swimming Federation (FINA) to be able to compete at the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta. The Georgian city is also hosting the Pan-Pacific Championships in August.

The ban might be good news for the World Student Games' organisers in Fukuoka as the Chinese might now send their top team to Japan. The two events clash and it had been assumed Chiua would send their best swimmers

FINA announced last week it would investigate what part trainers, doctors, and officials played in the doping scandal involving Chinese swimmers at last year's Asian

A special commission is to be sent to China to carry out the probe.
"FINA is taking a positive, progressive approach to the

problem rather than a punitive one. It's saying, what can we do to tighten the rules and make the sport a clean one?" U.S. Swimming Federation president Carol Zaleski said. FINA also revealed it would be stepping up out-ofcompetition dope testing this year and plans to put forward

several rule changes involving doping at a special congress

Amongst the proposals, FINA wants to take action against the federations of swimmers found guilty and to have all swimmers who set a world record to be tested within 48 hours of setting the record. "We hope to eliminate drugs from the sport," FINA

president Mustapha Larfaoui said.

China denounces decision

Beijing Monday denounced a decision by organisers not to invite China to the 1995 Pan Pacific Championships as unbelievable, unfair and unjust.

"I don't quite believe this kind of decision would be made. What reason do they have to do this?" Guo Qinglong, secretary general of the Chinese Swimming Association, said in a telephone interview.

"It's unfair. It's against conventional reasoning... it's unjust," Guo said. "Only those who violate rules should be punished. There is no basis for punishing 1.2 billion

The answer was provided by United States Swimming President Carol Zaleski who said that allowing Chinese swimmers to participate would be "ignoring the wealth of actual and circumstantial evidence that points to the fact their drug problem is widespread and systematic."

"It is a fact that the use of banned drugs has entered China, like flies coming through windows... but our attitude toward drug abuse is unwavering. We will never tolerate, yield to it," Guo said.

We're not having this problem just today. It began in the 1960s and the struggle against drug abuse is a long-term and complicated one," he said.

Four other Chinese athletes — two canoeists, a hurdler

and a cyclist - were also banned last December after their urine samples showed traces of DHT, or dehydrotestosterone, a performance-enhancing hormone banned by the International Olympic Committee.

In a related development, the China Sports Daily said on Monday tests conducted on 57 athletes who took part in its National Winter Games in Northeastern Jilin last month were all negative.

ance for Mitsubishi to get two Doubts remain as soccer returns from mourning

Pare Same PARIS (AFP) — Italian football resumed Sunday with a seeded see call for fans to unite against in his only a violence two weeks after the nel in Copai, killing of a Genoa supporter, while in France teams in the law to observed a one minute's si-Bedersa: lence to mark the death of a supporter shot dead after an amateur match in the Paris recreirs and Duka Open suburbs the previous weekend.

Alas, it was not always Anni Wage Fr clear that the anti-violence the world to 12 to messages were getting million Data de through.

In France, where all amateur matches in the Paris area were called off, the one ' र प्राप्त कर का किया है। जन्म minute's silence at professional games was often spoiled. At Metz it was 🙇 turned into a shouting contest ः अधादाधः वट when local fans responded to drown out partisan chanting by Paris St. Germain suppor-Korda of the C ters, and at Lyon a section of the crowd used the moment to yell racist slogans.

There was plenty of violence on the pitch as well. A lower division game behis pont * tween Endoume and Ajaccio ... who was all had to be stopped for a quarter-of-an-hour after all 22 players, despite wearing black arm-bands in memory of Douadi Atou who was fatally shot leaving the Drancy stadium to the north of the capital, indulged in a free-

> Four players were sent off. In Italy, where all sport was suspended the previous Sunday because of the stabbing of Vicenzo Spagnolo beore the AC Milan versus Genoa clash, fans across the country appeared subdued and many stayed away as team captains addressed an anti-violence message to

> > Juventus fans waved antihooligan banners as their side beat Bari 2-0 to stay on top of the table.

> > Alessandro Del Piero, the under-21 international. scored from the penalty spot in the 40th minute after a handball by Brazilian Gerson and Ciro Ferrara put the issue beyond doubt with a goal in the final minute. Both sides finished with

ten men after Robert Jarni for Juventus and Bari's Amendeo Mangone were sent off.... who have 42 points from 19 games, retain

heir three-point lead over Parma, who heat Padova 1-0. Gianfranco Zola scored in the 71st minute after Parma itruggled hard to unlock the Tel: which has now let through 41 worst defence in the league şoals in 19 gameş. AS Roma moved into third

place on 34 points after beatng Inter Milan 3-1. Argentila's interpational Abel Balbo opt all the Roma's goals, foring the fourth minute from a see-kick, then can-SALAM YA SALAI elling out Andrea Seno's qualiser before completing is bat-trick in the 71st mi-

eservation, please call 525155 thestre is closed of thestre is sundays Anore Argentina striker, jabriel districta, took his



City attack. The match ended 1-1 (AFP photo) points behind Championship

leaders and bitter rivals Real

Still reeling from their

shock 4-1 home defeat against Atletico Madrid in

the Spanish Cup earlier in the

week. Barcelona had two

players sent off in a humiliat-

ing 5-0 league defeat at Rac-

side dominated the first half

and had more than half a

dozen chances to score. But

things went haywire in the

second-half which saw goal-

keeper Carlos Busquets and

defender Albert Ferrer sent

Stoichkov (30), Bakero

(50) and Korneiev (42) all

squandered goalscoring

chances for Barcelona and

then the visitors were rocked

back on their heels when

Torre fired home an opening

goal for the home side in the

dying seconds of the first-

After the interval, Santan-

der's 36-year-old captain

Quique Setien headed home

a second and with the Barce-

lona defence, without the

suspended Sergi and the in-

Ironically Johan Cruyff's

ing Santander.

season's tally to 17 with two goals in Fiorentina's 3-1 win over Genoa, a victory which lifts the Florence side into

AC Milan, fresh from their midweek Super Cup triumph over Arsenal, were held to a 1-1 draw at home to lowly Cagliari.

Lazio, beaten in their last outing by Bari, lost again and tumbled from third to fifth in the table - 11 points behind the leaders.

Without their suspended striker Roberto Rambaudi, thev were beaten 2-0 by Torino for whom Ghanain Abede Pele and French international Jocelyn Angloma scored in the 52nd and 74th minute respectively.

Paris St. Germain's hopes of retaining the French title were badly dented when they crashed 2-0 at Metz. The defeat left them trailing unbeaten pacesetters Nantes, who have a game in hand, by eight points.

The leaders were unable to face visiting Martiques because of a waterlogged pitch while Lyon moved up into second spot after scoring a

3-1 home win over Lille. Paris St. Germain failed to turn first-half territorial domination into goals and paid the price when Cyrille Pouget was on target for the home side on the hour. Sylvain Kastendeuch then sealed the result with a penalty in the 77th minute after Bernard Lama needlessly

brought down Pouget. A hat-trick by Florian Maurice highlighted Lyon's win over Lille — the visitors scoring a consolation goal in the dying seconds through Eric Assadourian.

In Spain, Barcelona's nightmare continued and they crashed again to go six

jured Nadal and Koeman, looking increasingly fragile. Merino made it 3-0. Two more goals, both scored by Radchenko and the second from the penalty spot, completed Barcelona's misery. Johan Cruyff later admitted that he was "ashamed" of

his side's performance and promised that some "unpopular" decisions would have to be taken. We had a lot of chances in the first-half and we didn't score from them," he said. adding: "Any team can make

you suffer when you play like that - especially if you have two players sent off. Cruyff, who said that the Spanish League was getting more and more competitive" did not think buying new players was the answer. A lot of players are just not doing their bit, and they

he said. Real Madrid notched up their 14th win from 21 matches with a 4-1 away win at Logrones - Laudrup scoring twice with their other goals coming from Zamorano and Luis Enrique.

have already been warned,"

Deportivo stayed to second place five points behind Real despite a shock 3-1 defeat at struggling Sporting Gijon who moved up to third from

Ajax thrash Feyenoord to

Despite missing seven key players through injury and suspension, Ajax Amsterdam estended their lead in the Dutch first division to five points with a convincing 4-1 victory over Feyenoord Rot-

terdam Sunday.
The big clash produced skirmishes between rival fans before the game. One policeman was taken to hospital and four others were slightly injured. Police reported a number of arrests. On the field, the Dutch

champions recovered from 1-0 down midway into the first half to equalise by halftime. Opening the second half with three quick goals, they put the game beyond Feyenoord's reach to maintain their unbeaten record. The Amsterdam side out-

classed their traditional rivals

with neat possession football.

Spanish first division leading scorers

18 - Ivan Zamorano (Real Madrid)

14 - Meho Kodro (Real Sociedad) 11 — Davor Suker (Sevilla)

10 - Pedrag Mijatovic (Valencia), Angel Cuellar (Real Betis)

9 — Carlos Munoz (Real Oviedo) 8 Juan Pizzi (Tenerife), Juan Esnaider (Real) Zaragoza), Vladimir Gudelj (celta), Jose Zalazar (Albacetel), Jose Amavisca (Real Madrid)

Italian first division scorers

17 — Qabriel Batistuta (Fiorentina) 13 — Abel Balbo (Roma), Sandro Tovalieri (Bari)

II — Giuseppe signori (Lazio) 10 — Gianluca Vialli (Juventus), Gianfranco Zola (Parma)

- Alen Boksic (Lazio), Alessandro Del Piero and Fabrizio Ravanelli (Both Juventus)

PHOENIX (R) - Sac-

BRIEF Fogdoe career probably over

SPORTS

STOCKHOLM (R) -Tomas Fogdoe's career as a top skier is probably over following a training accident that left him partially paralysed, the Swedish news agency TT quoted his doctor as saying on Monday. Olle Andren, head doctor at the University Hospital of Umea, in northern Sweden, said Fogdoe could recover some use of his legs but would have to "get used to a different way life." "Fogdoe has suflysis. He will be able to

recover partially as a result of physiotherapy and partially with drugs," Andren was quoted as saying. Fogdoe, World Cup slalom champion in 1993, was training with the rest of the Swedish downhill team at Are - 300 kms from Umea – when he skied into 2

wood and apparently crashed into a tree. **Bubka fails new** record

DONETSK, Ukraine (R) — Sergei Bubka easily defeated 11 opponents at an indoor pole vault meeting in his hometown on Sunday, but failed an attempt to break his world record. The Ukrainian world champion cleared 5.90 metres at the first attempt and then stood by and watched arch-rival Igor Trandenkov of Russia miss three attempts at 6.0 metres. Bubka then had the bar set at 6.16 metres, one centimetre higher than the world record he set at the same meeting two years ago. But he failed in three attempts in front of 5,000 cheering fans, though he came close on two of the

Vogts names new caps HAMBURG (AFP)

Steffen Freund and Heiko Herrlich have been called up for the first time by Germany's national coach Berti Vogts for a friendly international against Spain next week. Freund, a Borussia Dortmund midfielder, and Herrlich, a Borussia Moenchengladbach striker, join the squad for the match at Jerez de La Frontera on Feb. 22 Vogts, yet to name a captain to replace the injured Lothar Matthaus, will choose another two players from Stefan Klos, Marcus Babbel, Christian Woerns. Mario Basler, Dieter Eilts, Joerg Albertz and Fredi Bobic, afer next Saturday's matches. Vogts is expected to choose between Juventus defender Jurgen Kohler and Tottenham striker Jurgen Klinsmann for the captaincy.

West wins All-Star game 139-112

ramento Kings guard Mitch Richmond scored 10 of his 23 points in the third quarter as the substitutes sparked the West's 139-112 victory over the East in the 45th annual NBA All-Star game Sunday. Richmond used his outside shooting to trigger bursts in the second and third periods, when the West outscored the East by 20 points and took

control of the game. Richmond was named Most Valuable Player. He is the first player from the Franchise to receive the award since Oscar Robertson of the Cincinnati Royals in 1969.

Utah Jazz forward Karl Malone and Phoenix Suns forward Charles Barkley scored 15 points each and Seattle Supersonics guard Gary Payton had 15 assists for the West, which has won three of the last four midseason meetings. Orlando Magic centre Shaquille O'Neal scored 22

points for the east, which still holds a 28-17 edge in the All-Time series. The West expanded a 16point halftime lead to 79-60 early in the second half before going cold, missing 10

straight shots during one stretch. The East used an 11-0 run, capped by a three-point play by O'Neal, to cut the deficit to 79-71 with 5:57 left in the third quarter. O'Neal pulled

down a rehound, dribbled the

length of the court and flipped in a finger roll as he drew

But Payton made a scoop shot and Richmond hit a three-pointer to rebuild the lead to 84-71 and West closed the period with an 11-0 flurry Utah Jazz guard John Stockton hit a three-pointer,

San Antonio Spurs centre David Robinson had a tip-in, Richmond Sank a threepointer and Stockton hit again from long range to give the West a 104-81 lead entering the fourth quarter.

Barkley shows king-sized emotions

Charles Barkley, who plays bigger-than-life, showed some king-sized emotions af-First, the 6-foot-5 (1.96 metres) power forward blasted the ESPN sports tele-

vision network for airing a comment about whites that he said was in jest. A few minutes later, he had a hard time disguising the nostalgia when he talked about the inevitable end of his spectacular, 11-year career.

"I think I've played well this season," he said Sunday night. "My goals for the season were to average 20 (points) and 10 (rebounds). and I think that still keeps me in somewhat of an elite status. I think there's only three or four guys averaging 20 and 10, and my team is winning.

so I'm happy.
"Obviously, my skills are

going down, so if I'm selected again, it would be fans having flashbacks: I probably wouldn't be selected by the coaches anymore."

Barkley, who scored 15 points and had nine rebounds in his eighth All-Star contest. then turned his unflinching candor on the media and asked 1,500 credentialed reporters to leave town.

"I was trying to be a host, the city was trying to be a host, but I think everybody's tired of you now. Spend a lot of money tonight, then wake up early and leave so we can have our golf courses back,' Barkley said.

> IRS investigate **NBA** referees

At least 35 National Basketball Association referees are under investigation for allegedly evading taxes on income from the sales of unused airline tickets, a Portland newspaper reported on

Sunday. The Oregonian newspaper said it had learned from several sources that the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) had launched an investigation of the referees' travel expenses and the possibility that millions of dollars in

income went unreported. The newspaper said it had learned the NBA and 35 referees had hired defence lawyers to represent them in the matter.

America's Cup gets serious in 3rd round

SAN DIEGO (AFP) — Through two preliminary rounds, skippers in the America's Cup trials have shrugged off "Early is no time to panic," France 3 skipper Marc Pajot

said after a first-round defeat. Ok. Now it's time to panic. The third round-robin for challengers and defenders begins Tuesday in the Pacific Ocean off San Diego.

And although no one with the possible exception of the still winless Spanish will be eliminated when this round

concludes, some teams will be pushed to the brink. Wins in the first round were worth one point. Wins in the second round were worth two. The ante doubles in the third round to four points per

Victories in the fourth and final challenger round-robin

will be worth five points while the defender scoring escalates to seven points per win. After the fourth round-robin, the challenger fleet will be culled to the top four boats. All three defenders advance, although the boat with the most round-robin points enters the semi-finals with two wins while the second-highest

scoring boat goes into the semis with one win. "I don't think you want to be the boat entering the semis without a win," said Young America skipper Kevin "The third round-robin is the one that can make or break

you," said OneAustralia skipper John Bertrand of the challenger side of the equation. As it stands now, three challengers, Team New Zealand, Chris Dickson's NZL-39 and OneAustralia, have the inside track for semi-final berths in the Louis Vuitton Cup.

That could leave Nippon and France battling for the final spot. Presently, the difference between the fourth-place Japanese and the French is three points. If the form of the first two rounds holds, France can

move ahead of Nippon with a third-round victory over the But a French loss to Nippon could mean that France would have to upset one of the top three boats in addition

to beating Nippon in the final round-robin. On the defense end, the all-women crew sailing 1992 winner America3 has fallen behind its newer rivals Young America and Stars and Stripes. The problem is not the women's sailing ability but the boat.

Amerca3 has a new boat coming, but it won't be ready until the fourth round, and that could be too late.

Nigeria hit by **FIFA** decision

LAGOS (R) - Nigerian businessmen are counting the financial cost to Nigeria of FIFA's decision to cancel next month's youth soccer tournament in the West Afri-

"It is a big blow to Nigeria economically," said Uzor Okeke, director-general of the Manufacturers Association of Nigeria.

"We will not only lose in terms of the money we have spent preparing for the competition, we will not get the revenue from the anticipated boost in business activity during the event," he told Reu-

Many entrepreneurs, from local art sellers and hoteliers to black market currency dealers, had hoped an influx of foreigners for the soccer fiesta would boost business in an otherwise slumbering eco-

"Many hotels have refurbished their facilities expecting to get lots of dollars," Adekunle Olumide, director general of the Lagos Chamber of Commerce and Industry told Reuters.

Okeke said manufacturers were expecting the economy would receive a badly needed injection of hard currency from the championship which includes teams from Japan, the Netherlands, Portugal, Brazil and Argentina.

Israel to allow direct election of PNA chief

JERICHO (Agencies) — Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) agreed at their first talks in this self-rule enclave Monday that the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) head would be directly elected.

PLO negotiator Saeb Erakat said Israel had given way on the PLO demand, the first partial agreement between the two sides in eight months of talks on delayed Palesti-

nian elections. Israel had previously in-sisted that the PNA chairman should be appointed by a self-rule council, which is also to be elected.

But the Palestinians pushed for the direct election of the chairman at the same time as the poll for the autonomy council.

The agreement meant that when Palestinian voters mark their ballots in self-rule elections, they will vote separately for the president and an autonomy council.

The agreement was a nod to Yasser Arafat, who has long sought two separate ballots in autonomy elections: one for the self-rule council and the other for the president of the legislative body.

The title is seen as a symbolic step towards Mr. Arafat's goal of heading an independent state. He was designated "president of Pales-tine" by PLO bodies in 1988, but the title was not widely accepted abroad.

significant step in the right direction." said Dr. Erakat, a minister in the PNA.

The agreement on a key election issue came at a meeting between Dr. Erakat and Yoel Zinger, an Israeli foreign ministry official — the first such negotiation held inside the autonomy area.

Under the Israel-PLO accord, Israel was to have pulled troops out of West Bank cities and cleared the way for elections by last July. However, Israel has resisted moving ahead with a troop withdrawal because of concerns about security in the wake of a series of attacks by militants.

The two sides also agreed that hundreds of observers would be brought to monitor elections — including repre-sentatives from Arab coun-

Dr. Erakat said election talks would resume in Cairo on Feb. 21, when the two sides would try to resolve numerous disagreements that

Among the outstanding questions are how many members will be on the council and whether Jerusalem residents will take part in the elections.

The two sides failed to agree Monday on whether militant groups like the Islamic fundamentalist Hamas group, which violently oppose the peace process, should be allowed to run for

"The elections are purely Palestinian and if they will be democratic elections, every Palestinian will have the right to participate in them no matter what his beliefs are," Dr. Erakat said. The Israelis, however, see

the participation of militants in the elections as a recipe for disaster in the peace process. "We want to make sure the elections are democratic," said Mr. Zinger. "But we do not want to see individuals or

groups who call for Israel's

destruction participate." Dr. Erakat, Palestinian local government minister. said a general agreement on elections was now in sight.

"There are still some sticking points but we think we'll be able to conclude in a few weeks," he said.

Mr. Zinger agreed that "if we accelerate the work, we'll be able to finish very soon, adding, however, that sometimes the details take

longer time than expected."
But no date has been fixed for the elections. The Palestinians want Israel to redeploy outside Arab areas on the West Bank before the poll takes place, in line with the 1993 declaration of principles on autonomy.

Israel, however, has baulked at a troop redeployment, fearing it would leave its 130,000 settlers on the West Bank vulnerable to

King hosts iftar

HIS MAJESTY King Hus-sein on Monday bosted an iftar at Basman Palace for notables and representatives of various organisations in Madaba Governorate. The banquet was attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, His Royal Highness Prince Hamzeh Ben Al Hussein, Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem and other senior officials. The King and the guests attended prayers before the banquet (Petra photo)



Sawt Al Shaab suspends publication

By Sae!da Keilani Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The board of directors of the Dar Al Shaab Company on Monday decided to suspend the publication of the lossmaking Sawt Al Shaab Arabic-language daily with immediate effect but to continue the commercial operations of the company's printing press.

The future of Sawt Al

Shaab, Jordan's fourth national daily with a circulation of less than 20,000, will be decided on Feb. 27, when the general assembly - where the government owns a controlling interest meets to discuss available options.

However, barring a lastminute change of mind on the part of the Ministry of Industry and Trade, the company is most likely to be liquidated in line with a decision already taken by the government, which controls 67 per cent of the

Abdul Hai Majali, chairman of the board of directors, who represents the private sector along with three others in the 11-member decision-making body, said a decision would be taken at the Feb. 27 meeting whether to restructure the troubled 12-year-old company or to liquidate it.

The salaries and rights of the 180 employees of the firm are assured and protected until a decision is taken, Mr. Majali told the Jordan Times.

A key reason that prompted the suspension was the lack of funds to buy newsprint, a senior official of the company said.

No comment was immediately available from the government. But Minister of Industry and Trade Ali Abul Ragheb told the Lower House of Parliament on Sunday that the government was determined to liquidate the com-

The company lost more than three-fourths of its JD 2 million capital in the last five years. The loss was incurred in the operations of Sawt Al Shaab while the commercial printing divi-sion of the firm continued to make profits.

Mr. Majali said the pri-

vate sector representatives in the board of directors favoured a restructuring of the company. He said the board had proposed that the capital be reduced to \$500,000, which would be set aside, and that the company issue fresh stock worth JD 2.7 million and raise the capital to JD 3.2

This would allow the company to settle its prob-lem of debts, estimated at JD 2 million against assets worth JD 1 million, and launch fresh operations after internal reorganisation. according to Mr. Majali.

The proposal, made in July 1994, was drawn up upon a suggestion by the Ministry of Industry and Trade, according to Mr. Majali. "It came as a surprise to us when the government now decided to liquidate the company," he

Mr. Majali said the decision to suspend the publication of the daily was taken unanimously by the board of directors although the private sector and public sector representatives in the board differed on how to solve the problem.

The history of Sawt Al Shaab is very controversial. The newspaper has had 13 chairmen and nine chief editors since its establishment in 1982.

Deputy Toujan Faisal (Amman), who raised the issue of the newspaper in Parliament on Sunday, accused the government on

(Continued on page 7)

AFM hopes to ease foreign capital rules

AMMAN (R) — The director general of the Amman stock exchange said on Monday he hoped for early approval of a new investment law that will end the need for cabinet approval of stock purchases by a foreigner.
Omayya Touqan said fore-

ign investors who were approved under the existing law continue to show interest in the Amman Financial Market (AFM) but others were awaiting approval of the new

There is a new law for investments which is now at the prime minister's office requirement that a non-Jordanian should get permission before buying stocks," Dr. Touqan told a financial conference.

"It is our problem to pass that law in parliament, and I think it will pass, so we have to do that as soon as possi-

ble." he said. Dr. Touqan told Reuters later there was no precise schedule for passing the law but the target was approval before a Middle East economic conference scheduled for Amman at the end of

October. At present foreign investors need approval from the Jordanian cabinet to buy on the local stock market. Bankers say there have been no fresh approvals for months as

discussion of the new invest-

Egyptians, some saying the

government pushing them to

the abyss, held a sit-in on

Monday to protest against a

law which could end their

Parliament passed the

amended law on Sunday, less

than one week after a mem-

ber of parliament first prop-

osed it and riding roughshod

over the views of the Islamist-

dominated unions. (see page

The amendment to the law

gives the judiciary wide pow-

ers to supervise union elec-

tions, including the right to

delegate these powers to

policemen and government

pushing things to the edge of

the abyss and we have no

alternative but to go to the abyss with them." Doctor

Magdi Khalifa told some 500

fundamentalist doctors in the

sit-in at their union head-

of a "ferocious campaign

launched against the Islam-

ists," he added. "Declaring

civil disobedience and strikes

are the readiest options we

The professional associa-

tions are one of the few poli-

tical platforms in Egypt ac-

The amendment was part

The Egyptian regime is

officials.

quarters.

control over the professional

Egyptian unionists stage

protest against unions law

CAIRO (R) — Hundreds of cessible to fundamentalists.

threaten ment law has proceeded. Despite the proposed liberstronghold alisation, Dr. Touqan said the new law would retain a 49 per cent limit on foreign holdings of Jordanian quoted

companies, although he would prefer the removal of all barriers to investment. Financial experts in Jordan have talked of a strong debate inside the government over allowing foreign invest-ment, which could help a country that has traditionally suffered a balance of pay-

ments deficit. "This is the way to get foreign savings," said Dr. Tougan, whose stock exchange is a government institution. "That's why we don't understand why anybody in the government

might be against this." Despite the obstacles to investment in Jordan and a poor market performance for the past 18 months, Dr. Tougan said foreign investors mainly representing Western pension funds — remained interested in long-term in-

vestment. Dr. Tougan said the Jordanian-Israeli conflict, finally ended by a peace treaty last October, had been a major obstacle to attracting foreign investment.

"Foreign investment has been almost zero for the past 45 years." he said. "Now. with the peace, that (obstacle) is out of the way.'

particularly the outlawed Muslim Brotherhood, which

has gained control of many of

They compete with the

government for public sym-

pathy by providing aid to the

poor and unemployed. After an earthquake in 1992, the

unions were faster than the

state in setting up tents and

Even a government news-

paper questioned the unex-

pected haste with which the

ruling National Democratic

Party drafted the amendment

and pushed it through parlia-

"What is the secret behind

the government's wish to pass

these amendments through

parliament with the speed of

an express train without stop-

ping at the constitutional sta-

tions?" asked Mostafa Amin,

founder and columnist at Al

helping victims.

ment.

Akhbar.

them in recent years.

Talibans Hekmatyar

KABUL (AFP) - The Taliban militant movement captured three main towns in Logar province Monday. moving closer to Charasyab. the headquarters of Hezb-e-Islamic chief Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, a Defence Ministry

There was, however, no independent confirmation of the spokesman's report.

A Hezb-e-Islami spokes-man in Islamabad, Mangal Hussain, said fighting was in Barak, southwest of Pule Alam, capital of Logar province. But he could not confirm or deny the fall of the

A joint force of Talibans and dissident Mujahedeen seized control of Puel Alam and the districts of Khoshi and Kolangar from the Hezbe-Islami, Defence Ministry spokesman Abdullah said.

Pule Alam is 25 kilometres to the south of Mr. Hekmatyar's headquarters. Mr. Abduallah said there was still fighting in Tangi Waghian, a strategic gorge,

approximately 15 kilometres away from Charayab. The fall of Puel Alam, if confirmed, will be a major setback to Mr. Hekmatyar's party which lost Maidan Shahr, 30 kilometres south of

Kabul in Wardak province. to the Talibans last week. Dissidents from President Burhanuddin Rabbani's Jamiat-e-Islami. Harakat-e-Ingilab of Mohammad Nabi Mohammadi and National Liberation Front for former President Sibghatullah Mu-

jadeddi had joined the Talibans, the spokesman said. Mr. Rabbani, whose control of the capital is threatened by the new armed movement, has called on the United Nations to speed up peace efforts, a senior official said Monday.

Since the overall situation and the balance of power is changing fast throughout the country, the U.N. should accelerate its peace process. said the spokesman. Abdul Aziz Murad

A U.N. official in Islamabad said at the weekend that a "mechanism" for a peaceful transfer of power by Mr. Rabbani would be in place by

He said the president would stand down by Feb. 22 so a ceasefire in the 30month-old civil war that has cost more than 30,000 lives could take effect.

and more neutral representa-

Mr. Rabbani's spokesman Opposition newspapers countered that he was not kept up their attacks on the aware of the Feb. 20 transigovernment's behaviour. tion date.

Mr. Rabbani's two-year "The government plants a term ended last Dec. 28. The time-bomb inside the professional unions," said the president should, in principle, hand over power to a Islamist newspaper Al Ahrar. new body made up of the "New escalation in connine groups that fought the frontation between the govanti-Soviet war up to 1989

ernment and unions," said a (Continued on page 7)

Peres details push to get Rabin to talk to Arafat

TEL AVIV (AP) — Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, in a new book published this week described Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin as "oversuspicious" and says he had to labour for months to convince Mr. Rabin to talk directly to the Palestine Liberation Organisation

(PLO). In the memoir "Battling For Peace," Mr. Peres claims credit for the ideas that led to the establishment last May of Palestinian autonomy in the Gaza Strip and Jericho.

The book appeared in part an attempt to settle scores over Mr. Rabin's 1979 memoirs -- scathingly critical of Mr. Peres for allegedly undermining his authority during his first stint as premier in the 1970s.

"Rabin is a man of solid intellectual gifts, but some of us feel he tends to be oversuspicious," Mr. Peres wrote, quoting from his 1950s diaries describing the rising army

officer as "hesitant... too cautious, and his personal relationships too bound up in the past."

The book, excerpts from which were published in the daily Haaretz Monday, could rekindle a recently dormant fend between the two leaders who are leading Israel's drive for peace with the Arabs and Prize with PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat.

Rabin spokesman Oded Ben-Ami and Benny Cohen refused comment on the book.

Mr. Peres served as defence minister in Mr. Rabin's first cabinet in 1974-77, reversing roles in 1984-86 when Mr. Peres headed a government in which their Labour Party shared power with the

right-wing Likud. Mr. Peres unsuccessfully urged Mr. Rabin to drop Israel's boycott of the PLO in August 1992, two months after Labour won elections.

Mr. Rabin continued talks in Washington begun by the previous government of Yitzhak Shamir with a delegation of Palestinians from the West Bank and Gaza. But Mr. Peres wrote the Palestinians were receiving their orders from Mr. Arafat, who, from exile in Tunis, was determined to impede the talks.

"My cabinet colleagues, in cluding the prime minister, believed that the indigenous Palestinian leadership... would gradually gain stature and independence and would be able to negotiate without the close and stifling supervision of the PLO. I believed they were mistaken," Mr.

Peres wrote. In January 1993, Mr. Peres told Mr. Rabin that Israel "must take bold steps towards negotiations with the PLO," he wrote. Mr. Peres then proposed the idea of offering the PLO the squalid Gaza Strip and a small area in the West Bank as an auton-

"I suggested that we prop-ose to Arafat and his staff that they move to Gaza (and) represent the Palestinians directly... my criticism of the Washington talks was that we were trying to reach a declaration of principles without any reference to specific territorial issues."

Mr. Peres won approva for low-level talks under the aegis of an academic conference in Oslo, Norway. His ideas. fleshed out in months of secretive negotiations in Oslo, led to the Sept. 13, 1993 Israel-PLO accord and the Gaza-Jericho autonomy in Mav.

But throughout, Mr. Rabin "moved slowly and warily," Mr. Peres wrote. "He was sceptical of the Oslo talks, sometimes he wholly disbelieved in them." At one point, Mr. Peres wrote, Mr. Rabin confessed that "he doubted anything would come of Osio."

U.K. woman charged with kidnapping baby

RHYL, Wales (AFP) - Authorities charged a 39-year-old woman with kidnapping a new-born baby from a Welsh hospital, police said. The baby girl, named Lydia, was found safe and sound Saturday, a day after being taken from Bodelwyddan Hospital near this north Wales town. Following a telephone tip-off, police said they found the baby Saturday in a house in Rhyl. They arrested a woman and three men who were inside the house. The men were later released without being charged. Lydia, who was born Tuesday, was taken after her mother Christina Owens, 32, was approached in the hospital by a woman she thought was a visitor. Police, backed by volunteers and an air force rescue helicopter, launched a massive search around the hospital and surrounding countryside. The case dominated newpaper beadlines in Britain Saturday. It came only two months after former dental nurse Julie Kelley, 22, was given three years' probation for snatching new-born Abbie Humphries from a ward at the Queens Medical Centre, Nottingham, central Eng-land, last July. Abbie was recovered just over two weeks later, after a nationwide hunt, at Kelley's home, not far from the hospital.

Pakistan group calls Jackson, Madonna cultural terrorists

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Michael Jackson and Madon-na should be tried in Pakistan as terrorists, a religious party official said in response to the capture of a suspect in the World Trade Centre bombing. "Michael Jackson and Madonna are the torchbearers of American society, their cultural and social values," said Nematullah Khan of the Jamaat-E-Islami or Party of Islam. "They are ruining the lives of thousands of Muslims and leading them to destruction, away from their reli-gion, ethics and morality." Ramzi Yousef was arrested Islamabad, Pakistan, and extradicted to New York. Mr. Yousef, an Iraqi, is alleged to be the mastermind of the Feb. 26, 1993, World Trade Centre bombing in New York that left six dead and some 1,000 injured. He pleaded innocent Thursday and is scheduled to make another court appearance this week. Mr. Khan, a divisional chief of his party, also called on Britain and Sweden to extradite authors Salman Rushdie and Taslima Nasrin, both accused by fundamentalist Muslims of insulting Islam and threatened with death. "These people have hurt the feelings and religious beliefs of... millions of Muslims all over the world" said Mr. Khan, Jamaat-E-Islami. which is fiercely anti-American, barely manages to win three or four parliamentary seats in elections in Pakistan. However, political leaders are wary of them because of their ability to mobilise public opinion.

Ireland launches manhunt for suspected killer

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NAAS, Ireland (AFP) --- Using police dogs and a helicopter, Irish authorities launched a manhunt Sunday for the suspected killer of a fiveyear-old boy. The child was stabbed to death overnight Saturday by a man who catered the boy's home in Naas, 30 kilometres (20 miles) southwest of Dublin.

Modern art show marks re-opening of Uffizi room

FLORENCE, Italy (R) — The works of more than 60 contemporary artists went on display in the Uffizi Gallery to mark the re-opening of a room in the Renaissance Palace that was badly damaged by a bomb in 1993. Today a sad chapter in the history of the Uffizi has closed," gallery director Anna Maria Petrick Teleph told reporters at an inaugura-tion ceremony. The exhibi-tion, entitled "compensation", is being held in the freshly-restored "Royal Mail Room", whose 250-metre long guass roof was blasted to smithereens in the explosion.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Iraq commemorates bombing of shelter

BAGHDAD (AFP) - Iraqis demonstrated here Monday to commemorate the fourth anniversary of the U.S. bombing of an air-raid shelter which killed more than 400 civilians. A candle-lit procession was held at Al Amiriya shelter which has remained untouched since it was gutted by U.S bombs on Feb. 13, 1991, during the Gulf war. Several hundred young Iraqis marched past the air-raid shelter on Sunday evening carrying pictures of the victims. Iraq said the bombing of the two-storey concrete shelter killed 403 people. The Pentagon said at the time that if the shelter had been hit, it was because it looked like a military bunker. Later Washington did not rule out that some civilians may have been killed.

Egypt, Palestinians to set up chamber

CAIRO (AFP) - Egypt and the Palestinian Authority are set to create a joint chamber of commerce to boost links between the Egyptian private sector and Palestinian businessmen. officials said here Monday. "No date has been fixed yet but we are waiting for a visit from the Palestinian association of chambers of commerce after the end of Ramadan (in early March) to discuss this issue. Cairo chamber of commerce head Mustapha Zaki told AFP. "This chamber is needed because it will allow us to create a mechanism to promote trade exchanges between the Egyptian private sector and the autonomous territories." He added there were wide-ranging possibilities for economic cooperation, particularly in infrastructure projects in the self-rule areas of the Gaza Strip and West Bank town of Jericho. Trade between Egypt and the Gaza Strip reached \$200,000 in 1993, made up of \$150,000 of Egyptian exports compared with \$50,000 of imports.

Israeli troops suffering 'breakdowns'

TEL AVIV (AFP) - Soldiers based near the site of a deadly double suicide bombing where many witnessed the deaths of their colleagues in January have been suffering nervous breakdowns, a daily paper said Monday. Some of them serving at the base near the Beit Lid crossroads north of Tel Aviv have had to be hospitalised following the Jan. 22 bombing which killed 20 soldiers and one other Israeli, the Maariy newspaper said. A few have returned home unable to face going back to the base, while others asked to be transferred to bases far from the scene, the paper said dubbing the phenomenon the "Beit Lid syndrome." An

army spokesman refused to comment on the issue to AFP. Several soldiers told Maariv that they grew very anxious if they had to approach the "crossroads of deaths."

3,000 under arrest in southern Egypt

MINYA (AFP) - Police have arrested 3,000 people in the past month in the troubled southern region of Minya and the crackdown is due to intensify after last week's arrival of 7,000 new officers, police said Monday. Most of those arrested were aged between 17 and 25 and were mainly pupils from secondary schools in the province, especially in Mallawi and Abu Qurqas. The detainees are being 'seld in a security forces camp in the town of Minya on the 'dge of the Nile about 250 kilometres south of Cairo. The province. has become the new stronghold for militants waging a bloody anti-government campaign since they were chased out of the neighbouring area of Assiut in the autumn. Working group to meet in Cairo

CAIRO (Petra) — The regional economic working group which includes Jordan, Egypt, the Palestine National Authority and Israel will meet in Cairo Wednesday to select the group's headquarters.

Jordanian, Egyptian experts to meet

CAIRO (Petra) - The Joint Jordanian-Egyptian trade committee will meet in Cairo at the level of experts to prepare lists of commodities that might be added to the trade protocol between the two countries in the beginning of March. The committee will also meet on the sidelines of the Joint Jordanian-Egyptian Higher Committee, which will be chaired by the prime ministers of the two countries

Dense fog in Turkey paralyses Bosphorus

ISTANBUL (R) - Almost 200 ships queued at the Bosphorus Strait on Monday after dense fog in Turkey shut down the vital shipping link and also disrupted road and air travel. Around 90 ships were waiting at the southern entrance to the waterway linking the Black Sea and the Sea of Mannara and more than 100 were at the northern entrance, a Turkish maritime official said. "We are checking vision on the Bosphorus every half hour to let the waiting vessels pass today and eliminate the queses on both sides of the strait," he said, adding that the waterway had been closed to traffic since mid-day on Sunday.

